DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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WASTE PLANT GOES TO APPEAL

A COMPANY behind a controversial waste recycling plant has accused planning watchdogs of 'ignoring' evidence when rejecting its proposals.

Clean Power's proposal for the waste plant on disused land owned by Network Rail off Moor Street was turned down by a planning committee of Dudley Council last year.

Report by Alex Ross

In making their decision, councillors said there was a 'likelihood' residents living within 70 ft of the site could be adversely impacted by its odour.

But this week, as the company lodges an appeal against the decision, Iceni Projects Limited — writing on behalf of Clean Power — has claimed key supporting evidence for the application was not considered.

Ignored

In a case document for the appeal, a spokesman said: "It is the appellants' case that the local planning authority has not used the evidence presented in the environment statement and that the local planning authority ignored the recommendation of the Environment Agency."

He added: "The Environment Agency provided the local planning authority with a high level of confidences that the odour control measures incorporated within the appeal scheme are of a very high quality and that, with that quality of odour abatement included, the proposal could achieve an environmental permit."

The Environment Agency did not object to the planning application after stringent conditions laid down on plant operations.

But more than 350 people signed a petition against the plant.

They raised concerns that the plant would blight the landscape, lead to more traffic and emit smells.

Last week ward councillors and residents met to discuss reviving their campaign against the plant.

Councillor Rachel Harris said: "People around here don't want a big waste recycling operation near their homes. This is a built up residential area and is simply not the place.

"We've spoken to people since the appeal has gone in, they are angry the company has done this but many are not surprised. We will be contacting residents soon on how they can get involved."

Clean Power said the six-acre plant, which would create 30 jobs, would release low carbon dioxide emissions and no unpleasant odour.

Domestic and commercial waste would be brought on lorries and turned into gas for combustion creating energy and heat.

It was claimed it would generate electricity for up to 10,000 homes a year.

The appeal will be decided by the Planning Inspectorate.

If the company win, the council could be forced to pay legal costs.

Shock as man dies on fishing holiday

AN ANGLER from Brierley Hill died suddenly during a holiday in Goa, just days before he was due home for his daughter's 17th birthday.

Members of Paul Grazier's family this week paid tribute to the 44-year-old 'free-spirited' and hard-working carpenter, who lived with his mother in Larksfield Mews.

Police in northern Goa are investigating the cause of his death, although there are not thought to be any suspicious circumstances.

Friends

Mr Grazier, a regular visitor to the Indian state, used to leave his room at around 7am each day to go fishing with friends but failed to answer their knocks on his door at a guest house in Anjuna on February 12. They alerted police, who called firefighters and they found him dead in bed after breaking down the door.

Mr Grazier had been due to return to celebrate the 17th birthday of his daughter, Georgia, yesterday.

His mother, Mrs Joan Grazier, 67, said: "He was a son you could rely on. Loving and kind. He was a lovable rogue and a good dad."

Mr Grazier's sister, Julie Cox, 46, of Claverley, said the family including Georgia and his ex-partner, Zoe Matthews, were 'devastated'.

Housing OK in nature area

AN EDUCATION centre, nature wardens' base and five four-bedroom houses are to be built on land within a nature reserve.

The development will be built at Saltwells Wood, Brierley Hill, on the site of Saltwells House, which has been demolished.

Dudley Council's development control committee unanimously approved the scheme at a meeting on Monday but some councillors were concerned over how the Selbourne Homes development and wardens base would co-exist.

New boss for campaign to save theatre

From left, chairman Gordon Downing with supporters Martin Whitehead and Garry Sawers

HE is to spearhead the campaign to save a historic theatre from demolition. Gordon Downing has taken over as chairman of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome following the death of its leader Geoff Fitzpatrick.

The former Halesowen College lecturer died last month, aged 72, following a short illness. Mr Fitzpatrick helped establish the group with the organisation's founder Malcolm Palmer in 2011.

Mr Downing has led the group during Mr Fitzpatrick's illness and has now taken the position full time.

He became involved with the bid to save the building after being struck by its history and the campaigners' passion when visiting an exhibition at the Station Hotel. The retired teacher, 77, of Dibdale Road, Dudley, said he hopes the campaign can gain ground in the coming months.

Campaigners got a boost when Midlands-based entertainment company Events that Rok confirmed it had held talks with Dudley Council about taking over the Castle Hill venue. They also marked the theatre's 75th anniversary with hope that the building which once hosted George Formby, Laurel and Hardy, and Judy Garland, could be reopened.

"I'm going to try and build on what Geoff built up," said Mr Downing. "We e want to have more talks."

A decision on the Hippodrome is expected when Dudley Council's planning committee hears applications for demolishing the building.

Vote on mayor's awards shortlist

NOMINEES in line to receive a prestigious community award have been announced with residents now asked to vote for who they want to win the accolade.

Three individuals and one group are in the running for the Mayor's Award, part of the Dudley borough's annual Civic Awards. They have all been selected by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch.

The nominees have stood out to him during his mayoral year and the public can now go online to vote for the one they feel most deserves the award. They can log on to www.dudley.gov.uk until March 9. It will go to the nominee with most votes and be presented at a civic ceremony in April.

The nominees are John Deane, of Dudley's Royal Air Force Association. He has worked to promote the group and raise for 50 years. Priory Boxing Club's Paul Gough is also in the running. He has inspired youngsters to excel at sport for 20 years.

Community first responder charity First Aid Black Country has been nominated. Volunteers are trained to attend 999 calls and provide care until the ambulance arrives. The other nominee is the Apni Zaroorat Community Network, which works for the people of Lye.

Pies and ale future at bank

A SCHEME to breathe new life in a historic former bank under plans to open a new restaurant have been given the go-ahead.

Pies and real ale will be on the menu at the Old Bank on the corner of Coventry Street and High Street in Stourbridge.

The building has been empty for eight years but now owner Adam Myers has submitted an application for a change of use for the building, which has been approved under delegated powers.

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Council house protest over centres

CAMPAIGNERS battling cost-cutting changes at children's centres took their fight to the steps of Dudley Council House for a protest ahead of a key budget meeting.

The group of worried parents and members of Dudley Coalition Against the Cuts waved banners and chanted during the hour-long demonstration on February 11. Snow failed to dampen their spirits.

Protestors said they believed changes planned for the centres, including theloss of staff, would have a 'severe impact' on the early education of their youngsters and take away vital support.

Council bosses originally planned to close some of the centres in order to cut costs but reconsidered after an outcry from residents. Although the authority currently plans to keep centres open, they have indicated that jobs will be axed.

There are also plans to place the centres in five clusters around the borough with facilities used by GP surgeries and other NHS services. But campaigners say they want the centres to continue operating as they do now.

Officials said the £2.3 million cut originally planned to the children's centres had been reduced to £1.5 million.

Sarah Shotton, of Haydon Road, Pensnett, organised the protest outside the council house last week. Her daughter Misha attends the Bromley Pensnett centre and she said the staff were 'extraordinary'.

"We are concerned making changes to these centres and the loss of staff will mean the services are not there as much when the children need them and this simply cannot be allowed to happen," she said.

Last-ditch appeal to re-open busy route

RESIDENTS have demanded action to end a long-running dispute over the closure of a busy road to traffic, which they claim is causing road chaos.

Council bosses decided to close Blackacre Road in Dudley to through-traffic after other residents branded the street a 'rat run' used by commuters.

But residents living in side roads close to Buffery Park have fought a long-running campaign to reverse the decision and demand fresh talks to resolve the matter.

Now Dudley Council has revealed plans to make the road closure permanent and introduce additional road calming measures on nearby streets to improve safety.

Around 130 residents have written to the council in a last-ditch bid to persuade the council to think again.

Campaign leader Duncan Petford, who has lived in Rollason Road for 27 years, helped collect the letters before delivering them to Dudley Council House.

He said residents had to rally support quickly to ensure the letters could be presented by last Friday's deadline.

"We are of the opinion that people living on the streets around the park have not been listened to," he said. "These letters show that there is support for looking at this again.

"The council haven't listened."

Mr Petford claimed cars had been redirected off Blackacre Road onto the narrower side streets causing accidents.

Councillors decided to shut Blackacre Road to through-traffic after residents in that street claimed their quality of life was being affected by more than 6,000 motorists a day using the route to Dudley Southern Bypass during morning and evening commutes.

17 Victorian homes get big revamp

WORK on a £500,000 scheme to spruce up Victorian terraced houses in a Dudley street is moving forward with the first tenants now moving back into their new-look homes.

Jephson Homes Housing Association, with support from Dudley Council, has been working on the nine-month project to revamp homes in Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall.

Modernised

Seventeen three-storey houses that were converted into bedsits and small flats in the early 1980s are being modernised.

They are also been reconfigured into a mix of properties ranging from one-bedroom flats to five-bedroom family houses.

The work, being carried out by contractor Bullock, includes the fitting of new windows, roof upgrades and the improvement of frontages, with the aim of making the area a more attractive place to live.

The properties are also being thermally insulated in order to make them more energy efficient and lower heating bills for tenants.

Public rally round after thefts

Senior play ranger Will Gannicliffe with recovered and donated go-karts

THE boss of a children's activity centre targeted by burglars twice in a month has heaped praise on the public following a surge in donations to replace stolen items.

More than £3,000 worth of tools and go-karts were stolen from Sycamore Adventure Centre in Old Park Farm Estate in Dudley in the two raids on outdoor stores.

Offers to replace the stolen tools and equipment have flown in nd the two stolen go-karts were recovered on Wrens Nest nature reserve. Manager Keith Rogers said: "It is really great to know there is so many good souls out there who want to help us.

"As soon as news spread about what happened we had an appeal post on Facebook which was shared to more than 14,000 users. Parents then started coming in and offering tools and go-karts. We also had a company called KO Machines which has given us a quote to replace all the tools at an extremely low budget price."

HMRC to close tax offices as costs cut

TAX offices in Brierley Hill, Wolverhampton and Walsall will close as part of £27 million Government savings.

HM Revenue and Customs has announced it is closing all 281 of its walk-in centres across the country, putting 1,300 jobs at risk. The centres gave face-to-face help to 2.5 million people with tax queries in 2012.

But HMRC will now replace them with a telephone service and home visits in a bid to cut costs, with the centres due to shut in May.

Defended

Union bosses said the move made 'no economic sense'.

Centres are based in Waterfront Way, Brierley Hill; Crown House, Birch Street, Wolverhampton; and Pattison House, Midland Road, in Walsall.

HMRC bosses defended the closures and insisted its new service, being introduced after a trial in the North East, would be more convenient. Ruth Owen, director general for personal tax, said: "HMRC is dedicated to providing help to customers when they need it. The pilot showed that this is a valuable service."

£1 tickets for children

CHILDREN can travel across the West Midlands for just £1 per day with their grandparents this month.

The 'kids for a quid' ticket has been introduced by National Express West Midlands during half-term.

The ticket can be bought from the driver and gives anyone under 16, travelling with an OAP concessionary pass holder, a day's unlimited travel for £1. The offer is valid after 9.30am every day until Sunday and also get holders two-for-one tickets at attractions such as Dudley Zoo, Black Country Living Museum and the Sealife Centre.

Bagging funds

GENEROUS shoppers have raised more than £280 to help people living with visual impairment

A bag pack at the Morrisons store on Holyhead Road in Wednesbury saw a total of £281.03 collected for the Beacon Centre for the Blind.

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Backing for new council housing

PLANS to spend £206 million improving thousands of council homes in Dudley over the next five years have been approved.

Members of the Dudley Council's cabinet also agreed to increase rents for tenants by 1.5 per cent. It works out as an average of £1.22 a week from April. The rise is lower than last year's 4.6 per cent increase.

Reduce

Council bosses said they wanted to keep it small to reduce the pressure on cash-strapped families.

They also approved increases to a number of other charges in line with the rent increase, which include garage rents and service charges for supported accommodation.

All of the rises will come into effect from April 2014.

Cabinet member for housing Councillor Steve Waltho said the rent rise had been kept low as the council no longer had to follow a Government formula.

As part of the improvement plan, £13.4m will be spent building more than 100 new council homes in the borough. Councillor Waltho told the meeting: "We are looking to provide more affordable housing."

Car parking fee hike fear

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council is looking at increasing car park charges across the borough to bring in £225,000 over the next three years.

But opposition leader Councillor Patrick Harley warned the Labour-led authority against using motorists to bring in more cash.

He said: "At a time when the economy is rapidly improving, this is not the time to choke off the High Street recovery in Dudley with sky high car parking charges."

It comes as the council plans to spend £300,000 replacing 52 outdated pay and display car park machines.

Battling floods

SOLDIERS arrived in Bewdley this week to help flooding victims and check vital river defences are maintained. Five members of the Royal Irish Regiment arrived in the town to assist Environment Agency staff battling flooding along the River Severn.

Latest appeal over mosque site rejected

MUSLIM leaders have lost their latest appeal in the High Court as they battle Dudley Council's legal bid to take back land earmarked for a controversial mosque and community centre.

The Dudley Muslim Association lodged the appeal after its defence to Dudley Council's action to reclaim land earmarked for the multi-million pound development in Hall Street was struck out at an earlier hearing.

But Deputy Judge David Halpern QC upheld the earlier ruling.

He said while the association may have been able to resist the council's claim, it had failed to serve a 'credible' defence during the proceedings.

He said it was now too late for the organisation to put its case in order at the hearing that was held on Friday.

Disputed

The row goes back to 2003 when the association agreed to give the council a site it owned in Claughton Street, needed as part of a development, in return for a long lease over the disputed plot between Hall Street and Oakwell Street.

It agreed to begin building work within five years or the lease would come to an end.

But when the scheme came before planners in March 2007 it was rejected.

A planning inspector overturned the decision and the council failed in a legal decision against that ruling.

But by then the deadline for the lease had passed and the council launched the proceedings to reclaim the land in 2010.

The judge said the council viewed the land as a high-profile site and that it did not want it to remain derelict.

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks said the authority's lawyers would now be looking at the judgment before giving advice on how to proceed next.

"This is a very complex legal situation and as leader of the council I have been very careful to act upon the advice of the council's lawyers," he said.

"They will now be studying the judgment fully before advising us on our next course of action.

Clear

"I have been quite clear that I have a legal duty to follow the advice given and we have followed it to the letter."

The Dudley Muslim Association were unavailable for comment.

Savage budget cuts to be considered for borough

ARTS and youth services face being slashed and street lights switched off after midnight as part of a cost-cutting budget backed by senior councillors in Dudley.

Streets and parks will not be maintained as often and garden waste will go uncollected for five months of the year as part of the drastic series of measures.

The Labour-run council needs to save £34 million by 2016/17 but has warned it will face a further £23m funding gap. The cabinet's budget will go before members of the full council at a meeting on March 3 for the final decision.

Among savings already identified are cuts to street cleaning, which will see residents being encouraged to hold their own litter picks, and plans to shorten the collection period for green waste to save £100,000. Some street lights will be turned off after midnight to reduce energy bills.

Maintenance of parks around the borough would be reduced to claw back £270,000.

Over the next two years changes will be made to some day centres to make savings and the youth service will also be scaled back, with the possible closure of three centres.

The management of Kingswinford's Broadfield House Glass Museum could be transferred to a third party in a bid to trim £170,000 off the budget by 2015/16. Further squeezes in arts funding are predicted including changes to the way Dudley Performing Arts is run.

A revamp of children's centres is also on the cards although initial plans to shut seven of the centres were scrapped following strong public opposition.

The council has also warned there may be compulsory redundancies.

Tax frozen for fourth year by the town hall

COUNCIL tax rates will be frozen in Dudley for an unprecedented fourth year running but £34 million of cuts will still have to be made.

Cabinet members pushed through the Labour-proposed budget for 2013/14 last week and finance boss Pete Lowe warned there would be more cuts to come with an additional £23m of savings needed in three years time.

Challenge

He said the council was facing an 'enormous' financial challenge as it battled to balance the books.

But he added that members understood that many residents were also struggling to make ends meet.

The council has accepted a £1.1m grant from the Government to enable it to freeze its element of the council tax.

Councillor Lowe said: "We know residents are facing financial challenges of their own. We are proposing to freeze council tax for the fourth year running."

Group looking for next big thing

Pink Productions are looking for more talented youngsters to join their tenth anniversary show at Sedgley

THE theatre company that helped to nurture the talents of One Direction superstar Liam Payne is on the lookout for its next superstar.

Pink Productions, which introduced Liam to the world of showbusiness, is preparing to hold auditions for a performance to celebrate its tenth anniversary. Decadance will be staged at the Mill Theatre in Sedgley in June.

Talent

Company director Jodie Richards said: "Liam joined us at the age of 12 and it's amazing where he is now, so hopefully we'll find plenty more talent out there. We normally have a cast of anything between 50 and 70 people, so we're looking for a lot of people to join.

The show will mark the company's 20th main production and will be a celebration of popular musicals from the West End and Broadway, including The Lion King, Dreamgirls and Legally Blonde The theatre company, which has featured on Britain's Got Talent, has been home to more than 400 performer.

Anyone aged between five and 45 years old is eligible to try out for the auditions, which will be held on Sunday at Holy Trinity Church, in Farrington Road, Ettingshall Park Estate, Wolverhampton. Under-13s will audition between 1pm and 2pm and over-13s will be from 2.30pm to 4pm.

Everyone attending should bring a £2 audition fee and a stamped addressed envelope. For more information, call 01902 682087 or 07763847811, or visit the www.pinkperformingarts.co.uk website.

NEWS in brief

Searching for a woolly runaway

A SHEEP has gone missing in Sedgley.

It has been missing for more than two weeks. Owner Steve Baggett, who owns Foxwood Boarding Kennels in Hurst Hill, has issued an appeal to the public to help him find his pet sheep.

"A dog escaped its lead and jumped over a fence into where my two sheep graze and went for them," he said. "One of the sheep jumped over the fence and I haven't seen her since."

Call Mr Baggett on 07796421841.

Croc shock as roof damaged

THE reptile house at Dudley Zoo was damaged by high winds. A panel above the crocodile vivarium came loose and keepers had to secure the roof.

It left a female West African dwarf crocodile, named Janet, exposed to the night sky.

Zoo spokeswoman Jill Hitchman said: "There was absolutely no risk of Janet escaping as she is within a secure enclosure inside the building, and spot heaters in the vivarium ensured there was no problem with temperatures falling."

Young Lions to roar into action

A LIONS club is preparing to host a ceremony to recognise the organisation's best young ambassador.

Thirteen delegates from the UK and Ireland will travel to Dudley for the event this weekend when Dudley Lions Club hosts the national finals of the Young Ambassador of the 21st Century at the Village Hotel.

Lunch club launch at Beacon Centre

A CHARITY has launched a lunch club to help raise funds for people living with sight loss.

Beacon Centre for the Blind wants groups to visit their Sedgley HQ. Groups can book a visit at £5.95 per person including a meal in the charity's restaurant and a tour of the Wolverhampton Road East base. Call 01902 886795.

Candle caused fire

AN UNLUCKY couple had their Valentine's night ruined when curtains in their bedroom caught fire from a candle. Fire crews were called to an address in Bradley Street, Pensnett, just after 10pm on Friday.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

IN A reckless moment I suggested the floods might spell the end of HS2. A few hours after that column appeared, a BBC report suggested the need to repair existing lines might put the future of the high-speed railway in doubt. And you can bet your life Auntie Beeb would not suggest such a thing unless she has been talking to someone important.

□□□□□□□□

IF the floods do lead to HS2 being cancelled, it will be the closest thing to divine intervention this cheerfully godless nation of ours is ever likely to see. Get ready with those hallelujahs.

□□□□□□□□

IN the meantime, is it too much to ask that every politician visiting the flooded areas might at least take a stirrup pump or a couple of buckets?

□□□□□□□□

I TRUST the foul weather has not interrupted your diligent save-the-planet routine of making sure the plastic bottles and glass bottles do not go in the same container. Has anyone noticed how much better the weather was before wheelie bins?

□□□□□□□□

IT'S statins all-round. The wonder-drug of the cholesterol age is to be prescribed to millions of Brits, even those at relatively low risk of heart attacks. The aim, presumably, is to make us live for ever, or at least long enough to die from cancer or dementia. Progress, eh?

□□□□□□□□

I LOST count of how many times Barclays chief executive Antony Jenkins used his bank's latest buzz-word on his Radio 4 interview. Barclays probably paid the earth for some City PR company to dream up this most vacuous of slogans and the intensely irritating Mr Jenkins was clearly getting his money's worth. Time after time he stressed that Barclays was becoming "the go-to bank." It is at moments like this that you wish radio were a two-way process and you could say to Mr Jenkins: "The very next time you insult my intelligence with 'the go-to bank,' I will reach through the loudspeaker and slap your legs very hard." Jenkins rattled on: the go-to bank, the go-to bank, the go-to bank. Got it? Later that day Barclays announced that, while the millionaire bosses were getting enormous bonuses, the bank was making 12,000 minions redundant. Barclays – the go to the JobCentre bank.

□□□□□□□□

SO farewell, Shirley Temple, not only the sweetest child ever to emerge from Hollywood but one of the first names I ever learned. If you were a boy, born in the 1950s and had a tousled shock of blonde curls, you got used to the big kids addressing you as: "Oi, Shirley bloody Temple."

□□□□□□□□

I WROTE fondly a few days ago of the golden age of broadcasting when intelligence and learning were revered and one of the most popular programmes was the Brains Trust. A reader of the same vintage reminds me that this period of towering intellectual majesty also featured Archie Andrews, a ventriloquist act on the radio. That's right, a ventriloquist you couldn't actually see. Peter Brough made a good living talking to a wooden puppet on the radio. It was only when he and Archie Andrews appeared on television that we realised what a terrible ventriloquist he was. Agsolute gollox.

□□□□□□□□

A CHARITY called Balance says the North East is in the grip of an alcohol epidemic which is costing the local economy £1.1 billion a year. Auntie Beeb promptly dispatches a radio crew to the blighted area where they find drinkers (or "vulnerable people," as the charity calls them) queuing up for the pubs to open at 8am and sinking six or 10 pints before lunch. The most striking thing was that these folk did not sound vulnerable or even depressed. They all seemed very jolly.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Show-off driver gets ban after chase

A DRIVER has been handed a suspended prison sentence following a chase that saw police driving almost 120mph to catch up with him.

Aqeel Altaf,aged 20, was driving a Honda Civic on December 3 when a police patrol car spotted him speeding away from traffic lights on the Birmingham New Road.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was shown the footage as the police car was forced to drive at speeds up to 119mph to keep up. Altaf, of Wassell Road, Norton, had admitted one count of dangerous driving at a previous hearing.

Mr Simon Phillips, prosecuting, said the car was spewing smoke as it pulled away from the lights.

Mr Phillips said: "Police had to undertake a number of road users to catch up with him. They were travelling at around 100mph and did not make much ground on him."

Police caught up with him after around a mile when he stopped at red lights at the junction with Regent Road. Mr Phillips said: "He panicked. He had weaved left and right to try and lose the police."

Mr Anthony Bell, for Altaf, said: "He fully accepts that his driving was bad. He said he was showing off to his friend, but whatever the reason it was unacceptable. He has lost his job following the interim ban and has not claimed any state benefits since."

Mr Bell added that no one was hurt or forced to take evasive action during the chase, and no drink or drugs were in his system.

Altaf was given a five-month sentence suspended for 18 months and ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work. He was disqualified from driving for two years and ordered to pay £340 costs and £80 surcharge.

Wheelchair-bound attacker 'lost control'

A WHEELCHAIR-BOUND man has been given a suspended prison sentence after holding a knife to a man's throat and slashing a woman's thumb.

Ian Hadley admitted two counts of actual bodily harm at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The court heard that Hadley had been at a friend's house when her ex-partner arrived and an altercation occurred on September 27, 2011. The injured parties, John Rollinson and Chelsea Thomas, had been outside the house when Hadley went outside with a kitchen knife.

by Jon Pritchard

Mr Simon Phillips, prosecuting, said Hadley called over Mr Rollinson before putting the knife to his throat. He said: "Miss Thomas tried to intervene and sustained a substantial cut on her thumb. Mr Rollinson tried to grab the knife and cut both his hands. Mr Rollinson's injuries were not serious but Miss Thomas required surgery... and will suffer from a loss of sensation in her thumb."

Hadley told police he had been out drinking and had gone back to his friend's house when her former partner turned up. He said Mr Rollinson, son of the former partner, and his girlfriend, Miss Thomas, had been shouting threats and abuse.

Hadley, 45, of Oliver Close, Kates Hill, said he had concealed the knife and used it in self defence.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, for Hadley, said: "This is a man in his middle 40s and should be able to act in a more adult manner."

Judge John Wait said: "You are a man who is prone to losing your self control and on this day you lost your self control again, no doubt because you had been drinking. You did not acknowledge responsibility for what you have done and delayed proceedings over two years and it was only on the day of the trial when you showed any acknowledgement at all."

Hadley was given a 14-month sentence suspended for 18 months. He was also given a curfew to stay at his home between 7pm and 6am, and ordered to pay £500 costs.

Judge Wait also ordered a restraining order, preventing Hadley from contacting Mr Rollinson and Miss Thomas, and not allowing him within 100 metres of their addresses.

Typhoon relief evening

CHAIRMAN of the West Midlands branch of the Institute of Directors, Jason Wouhra, is hosting a gala evening with the hope of raising more than £50,000 to aid victims of typhoon Haiyan which devastated the Philippines three months ago.

Jason, a director of West Bromwich-based East End Foods, and his musician brother, Indi Wouhra, are hoping that local businesses will support the dinner being held on Saturday at Birmingham's International Convention Centre. Tickets cost £1,500 for a table or £150 per head and Jason can be contacted on 0121 359 2199.

Best foot forward for charity

Chris Rich who helped organise a British Heart Foundation charity walk with other walkers

FUNDRAISERS braved the cold to bring in cash for a good cause. Nearly 20 people put on their walking shoes for the Ramp Up the Red event at Dudley's Priory Park.

The event raised around £200 for the British Heart Foundation. It was one of a number of similar events nationwide.

Walkers gathered in the park at 10am with the majority completing two or three laps around the park. They could walk, jog or run but most opted to walk, even bringing along their dogs. Some were sponsored per lap while others asked for a donation.

The event was organised by 67-year-old Chris Rich. "When I learned about the events going on I thought it was something we could do on Priory Park," she said. "I have a heart condition myself so I know the good work the charity does and wanted to help."

A tweet idea to encourage the birds

KEEPERS at Dudley Zoo are are inviting children to help care for some of the site's wild birds this week.

Half term visitors will be able to decorate a nest box in the Discovery Centre, which staff will fix to trees around the zoo's 40-acre wooded hillside to enhance the population of native birds.

Birds section leader Kellie Piper said: "We've got hundreds of small wild birds around the zoo site including chaffinches, robins, blue tits, long tail tits and nuthatches, which all need to find places to nest in the coming weeks.

Nesting

"With many of their natural nesting sites fast disappearing it is vital we provide suitable boxes that are safe and warm for them to start laying their eggs in."

The free activity will coincide with National Nest Box Week, where bird lovers are encouraged to add nest boxes into their gardens.

Children will be able to paint their box in camouflage colours to help deter predators, which once dry, will be varnished and fixed to suitable trees around the site.

Firm's move creates jobs

A SOFT textiles manufacturer has created seven jobs by moving to new premises.

Miss Daisy's, which makes pillows, cushions and draught excluders, moved in January to a 14,500 sq ft site in Peartree Lane, Dudley. Managing director Sean Smith said the company now employed 27 people following the move from its wholesale warehouse in Dudley Port.

The four-year-old business was started by his wife Beverley selling on the internet. It is about to invest in a new machine that will take investment in the new site to more than £200,000.

Grants for grabs

COMMUNITY groups can apply for a slice of a funding pot run by a coach company. The National Express Foundation awards thousands of pounds to groups working with the young. Applications must be in by March 28. See www.nationalexpressgroup.com/foundation

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Air cadet group is helped by the police

A GROUP of air cadets are flying high after scooping almost £2,000 in grants from the police.

Youngsters from the 2132 Sedgley Squadron of the Air Training Corps received the cash boost to help buy equipment.

Officers from the Upper Gornal and Woodsetton neighbourhood policing team donated £1,974.85 to the group.

The squadron offers the chance to get active and gain life skills through camping, adventure training in the Lake District and taking to the skies on an Air Cadet pilot scheme.

Sgt Jimmy Jones, from West Midlands Police, said: "Clubs like this are so important to communities. They offer our young people the opportunity to be a part of a team who work and train towards gaining many achievements that will no doubt have a bearing on their future choices in life."

Flying Officer Martin Somerfield, from 2132 Squadron, praisee the 'excellent support' Sedgley Squadron received from West Midlands Police and Police Property Act Funding. Cash is generated from the sale of goods seized by police.

Brothers deny brawl charges

THREE brothers have appeared in court accused of taking part in a pub brawl, which allegedly involved a pool ball being thrown and a cue brandished as a weapon.

Anthony, Patrick and Thomas Doherty all denied affray when they appeared at Sandwell Magistrates' Court in connection with a fight in The Shireland, Smethwick, on January 7. Anthony, 29, and Patrick, 33, live in High Street, Brierley Hill. Thomas, 25, lives in Wynn-Griffith Drive, Tipton.

They were bailed to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on May 6.

Death inquiry

AN inquiry into the death of a man who took a cocktail of drugs has been adjourned. Darren Wooldridge, aged 43, of Spring Meadow Road, Dudley, died at Russells Hall Hospital on April 2. His family asked for evidence from the mental health service which looked after him.

Wages £20,000 a year short of house prices

PEOPLE on average wages in some parts of the West Midlands would need to earn more than £20,000 extra a year to keep up with soaring house prices.

New research by the housing charity Shelter reveals that wage increases have fallen dramatically behind rising house prices over the past 16 years.

A single person in the Black Country would need on average a salary of £37,399 to afford the same house they could have bought in the 1990s on the equivalent wages of the time.

A worker in the Black Country would need to earn a further £15,389 on top of the average £22,010 a year salary just to keep up with the increase in house prices.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "I helped get funds for new homes that have been built on Priory Road, the Wrens Nest and in Gornal,but that's still not enough for huge demand. The Government needs to step in and commit to building more houses.

Derelict

"I want the Government to make an ambitious commitment to building 200,000 new homes and I want as many as possible of those to replace derelict land in Dudley."

Natasha Millward, Labour's candidate for Dudley South said: "The Help to Buy Scheme pumps up demand but does nothing to increase housing supply. As a result house prices rocket sky high, and people get shunted into the private rental sector. In turn, increased demand for rented homes, triggers higher rents.

Campbell Robb, chief executive of Shelter, said: "When you need to more than double your salary just to keep up with rising house prices, it is no surprise that the dream of a home of their own is slipping further out of reach for a generation.

"Politicians need to start meeting people halfway by committing to bold solutions that will get more affordable homes built. Otherwise future generations will find themselves priced out of a stable home, however hard they work or save.

"The reality is that successive governments have failed to build the affordable homes that this country needs. As a result our housing shortage has reached crisis point.

"Pumping money into mortgage guarantee schemes is not the solution. This further inflates prices by increasing demand for an already limited number of homes, and will only make things worse. The only solution is to build more affordable homes."

MP leads move to halt HGV misery for residents

HUGE lorries thundering along residential roads in a bid to avoid a notorious Black Country junction have prompted campaigners to call for action.

Residents claim their lives are being made a misery as HGV drivers try to steer clear of hold-ups at Burnt Tree road junction.

A scheme to replace the roundabout with traffic lights was carried out to alleviate traffic jams. But residents claim their lives are still being blighted by lorries attempting to avoid queues on the Dudley and Sandwell border.

People living in Oakham Road, Dixons Green, contacted their MP to voice their concerns. Dudley North MP Ian Austin said trucks and coaches were using Oakham Road to avoid Burnt Tree, the A461 Birmingham Road and A4123 Birmingham New Road.

He says many coach and haulage companies avoided using the junction during the roadworks which ended in 2011, having cost £12.3 million.

But Mr Austin says the same HGVs continue to use side roads to this day causing disruption for residents. He has called on businesses to move back onto the main route and has written to companies in the Black Country urging them to stay off the minor roads.

Now he wants Dudley Council to back him with measures to prevent large vehicles using the road. "All of us who live in the area know the roadworks dragged on but local people are fed up with trucks and lorries thundering through residential roads in Oakham," he said.

Dudley Council transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said he would look into the situation.

Unhealthy lifestyles fuel rise of diabetes

DIABETES is on the rise in the Black Country, NHS figures reveal.

In Wolverhampton, Walsall and Dudley 50,000 people now have diabetes – around 2,000 more than last year. Across the region the figure has increased from 365,000 to 383,000.

Health chiefs warn that action needs to be taken. The rise is fuelled by cases of type 2 diabetes, linked to obesity and unhealthy lifestyles.

The latest figures for 2012/13 show that 16,515 people in Dudley have diabetes, up by 845 on the previous year.

In Wolverhampton the figure is 16,043, up from 15,366, while in Walsall 17,567 now have diabetes, 535 more than in 2011/12. NHS figures reveal that 34,646 people in Sandwell and West Birmingham have diabetes.

Across the Black Country 50,125 people have type 1 or 2 diabetes, up from 48,063. The UK has seen its biggest rise in the number of people with diabetes since 2008.

Little Foodies have a healthy appetite

Youngsters from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Dudley learn how to cook pizzas at the food festival

FROM making burritos to creating pizzas, schoolchildren have been busy during a week-long food celebration at Merry Hill.

The Little Foodies festivalprogramme has been jam-packed full of activities to help encourage healthy eating habits.

Sessions have seen youngsters build their own vegetable burritos at Burrito Kitchen and designing healthy pizzas at Pizza Express.

They have also been packing their own lunchbox with Baguette & Co,or making fruity smoothies at Zumo juice bar.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary in Dudley, Priory Primary in Sandwell and Sutton Park Primary in Kidderminster were among the schools taking part.

The free workshops each lasted one hour and every child was able take home a treat from Merry Hill as a reminder of their day.

Kelly Reed, senior marketing manager at Merry Hill comments: "The Little Foodies festival is a great educational project which will help to show our youngest customers the benefits of eating well.

"Kids from schools in the area were able to learn a lot about making healthy choices but also get creative with the fun food activities in place."

The shopping centre is also running We Are Dining campaign until March 2. Shoppers will be able to take advantage of free samples, competitions and special offers. There will also be activities for children during the February half-term holiday.

NEWS in brief

Childminding help is required

A RECRUITMENT campaign has been launched to find new childminders.

Dudley Council says there is a shortage of people taking up the vital caring roles.

The authority is looking for residents interested in providing a quality childminding service to contact them. Running a childminding service requires the individual to be self-employed, complete background checks and meet minimum legal standards. The council offers training. Contact 01384 818121.

Variety show for mayor's charities

A VARIETY show in aid of charity will take place next month at Parkes Hall Social Club in Dudley.

The evening on March 14 features Tony Gold with eight acts including various singers. Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch said: "I hope to see lots of people there on the night for what promises to be a great night out."

Proceeds from the event will go to the Mayor of Dudley's charities. Tickets cost £3 from the club in advance or by calling Tony on 07909 886591.

Hospice calling for run pledges

FIT residents can raise cash for a hospice by taking part in the British 10k London Run. Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice has six guaranteed places in the event which will take place on July 13.

People who want to take up one of the places should submit a pledge of expected sponsorship and full contact details to vicki@msh fundraising.co.uk

Training to get industrial work

A COLLEGE is hoping to help boost manufacturing industry with a special training programme. City of Wolverhampton College launched its Preparing to Work in the Engineering and Manufacturing Industry course in response to a revival in the sector. Jobless people should ask at the Jobcentre for a referral or contact 01902 837198.

Collection boost

A COLLECTION at a Christmas carol concert at Kingswinford School brought in a total of £191 for charities, to be divided between the Against Breast Cancer Charity and The Children's Society.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

AS publicity stunts go, it is rather impressive. A 7ft by 12ft statue of a hedgehog has been installed in south London to promote David Attenborough's new TV series.

The life-like structure, placed in Clapham Common, took more than two months to create, and with 2,000 soft wood spikes, it is actually larger than a rhinocerous.

You hate to think what effect it will have on the drunks stumbling across it while taking the short-cut from the pub, especially when they try to explain the experience to their angry wives waiting at home.

"What? You've seen a 12ft hedgehog in the park? You'll be telling me next you're late because you bumped into George Michael."

NICK Clegg, don't you just love him? The esteemed Deputy Prime Minister's latest pearl of wisdom is that a fresh approach is needed with regard to drug-related crime, because the war on drugs is being lost.

And let's face it he's right. Anybody who thinks there is any chance of winning the battle against drugs needs only to take a trip to their local magistrates court for a reality check. Day in, day out, our courts are occupied by a non-stop procession of twitching, paranoid junkies shuffling their way into the courtrooms, chuntering obscenities to themselves as they fidget and fumble in their seats.

But if we are going to be searingly honest about this, governments don't have a great track record when it comes to winning the war on many crimes.

Okay, Mr Clegg will no doubt point to the success Britain has in dealing with the serious stuff, you know, like not wearing a seatbelt or smoking in the pub. But when it comes to the more bread-and-butter offences, the perpetrators seem to have a woefully unhealthy disregard for authority.

For example, does Mr Clegg seriously think any government is going to truthfully be able to say it has 'made burglary history'? Or that a future Liberal Democrat government would be able to 'win the war on murder'?

The reality is that it is pretty well impossible to 'win the war' on any major crime, surely that does not mean we should throw in the towel and accept defeat. Are we now to turn a blind eye to street robbery or tax evasion, simply because those who are criminally inclined demonstrate a reluctance to change their ways?

Still, it was good to see that the Deputy Prime Minister decided to make his announcement in Columbia. You can just imagine half the country's drug barons nodding sagely in agreement: "I agree with Nick."

3Mercian commanding officer Lt Col Chris Davies

First tour has been life-changing says Pte Plummer

Pte Ashley Plummer secures the base's front gate

Last hurrah for 3Mercian troops

Black Country and Staffs soldiers are ending their last tour in Afghanistan. **JOHN SCOTT** reports

SOLDIERS from our region will march into the military history books with pride on their return from their last hurrah in Afghanistan, their Commanding Officer has promised.

The 3rd Battalion Mercian Regiment (3Mercian) – formerly the Staffords – will parade along streets where they have been granted the freedom of a town or city this summer after their current tour of duty on the frontline, which is the last before the battalion is disbanded as part of plans to cut the strength of the regular army.

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Davies, the commander, promised: "We will go out with flags unfurled and drums beating as the last battalion of the Mercian Regiment ever to serve in Afghanistan. The deployment has gone better than we could have envisaged and leaves a lasting legacy that will sit proudly alongside the achievements of those who served before us in both this battalion and their predecessor The Staffords."

Sadness

But there is deep sadness over the loss of Sgt Major Ian Fisher. The former Staffordshire University student from Essex, a 42-year-old father-of-two, was killed in a suicide bomb attack. Lt Col Davies said: "This was a really massive blow for the battalion. Despite that they have done well and are in a good place.

"We have to go through the disbandment after our return but we understand the reasons for that and know the regular army has got to be reduced in size."

The companies involved – A and C – have been operating from two of only four bases outside Camp Bastion currently used by British combat troops. A few years ago there were 137. The last act of both will be to close their respective base for good, Camp Price near Gereshk and Lashkar Gah Durai in Nahr-e Saraj.

From left: LCpl Matt Bradley, Pte Tom Wright, Pte Dean Williams and LCpl Matty Hill

Lt Col Davies said: "Neither have any creature comforts left. It is now basic soldiering, living on the extremes but there is no requirement for them to be forward any more because the Afghan security forces have control."

Both are expected to be pulling back to Camp Bastion in the near future with A Company, who are based at Lashkar Gah Durai and came out to Afghanistan first, leading the return home. All the 3Mercian troops will be back by summer.

As they ate at Camp Price, members of C Company each took away a brick along with their paper plate and plastic cutlery after every meal.

Lance Corporal Matty Hill, a 29-year-old father-of-three who lives with wife Emma in Gornal, is on his second tour of duty on the frontline in Helmand Province. He said: "Taking the brick out every time we had a meal meant everyone did their fair share rather than leaving it to a few to do all the work. You don't really mind because every time something disappears it means we are closer to going home."

The proposed eight or nine-month deployment is now expected to barely last six in most cases.

Private Ashley Plummer, 22, whose parents live in Bilbrook, revealed: "This is my first tour and it has been life-changing. A geezer who looked 75 arrived at the gates wanting medical assistance after he and some younger lads had been wounded in fighting. He had been hit in the head with shrapnel. My grandfather is the same age."

The former lifeguard at Dudley Baths added: "It is an important tour because it is the last by 3Mercian and we will all finish it together."

Lance Corporal Matt Bradley, a 29-year-old father-of-three from Gornal who is engaged to partner Louise, is on his second Afghan tour. He is in the Quick Reaction Force, which rushes to help Afghan troops. He said: "Luckily we have not got in any scrapes. It is a lot quieter than last time. They have been totally different tours but both have been equally challenging."

Private Dean Williams, 24, from Upper Gornal, now hopes to join the Paras. He said: "It is sad that 3Mercian is disbanding after this. We have bonded as a group and got to know each other really well. Now we will be split up. I only joined this battalion because of its connection to The Staffords, which it replaced, but now that link with the local community could be lost."

The troops and their families will leave Germany and move to join either 1Mercian in Bulford or 2Mercian at Chester. There will be an emotional homecoming for 3Mercian when they exercise their right to march through places in the West Midlands where they have been granted the freedom to do so, for one last time. The battalion's colours will be laid up in Lichfield Cathedral beside those of the Staffordshire Regiment.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

A 60-year-old vicar born above a grocery shop in Wolverhampton presided over Elton John's wedding to Renata Blauel. Canon James Whild was the man to oversee the eccentric pop star's marriage to Renata Blauel in a ceremony in Sydney, Australia. Before emigrating in 1956, Mr Whild, who was born in Dudley Road, Wolverhampton, had been curate at St Luke's Church in Blakenhall.

WEST Midland transport chief Phil Bateman was attacked as he went to the aid of a man being beaten in a pub brawl. Councillor Bateman, chairman of West Midlands public transport committee, was punched, butted and showered with glass as beer mugs were hurled at him in the Turks Head in Lancaster Circus, Birmingham. He had sprung to the defence of a man who was attacked while phoning for help following an assault on a woman.

1994

A NAKED man brought a Wednesbury keep-fit class to a standstill when he burst in and began performing obscene acts to the music in front of 60 shocked women. Some of the class at the leisure centre were upset, but others were unable to control their laughter. Police were unable to get a description of the man as few had been looking at his face.

THE wheels came off a day out for the Goodyear Pensioners' Club - literally. The coach carrying retired workers from the Wolverhampton tyre plant shed two of its wheels while travelling along the M6 in Warwickshire, just two hours after passing its MoT. The driver managed to steer the vehicle to the hard shoulder, and another coach picked the group up to take them to the Walt Disney ice show in London,

2004

THE price of a pint of beer around the West Midlands was going up by 10p, following a shock rise by the brewers of Carling, Worthington and Grolsch. Wolverhampton-based Banks's also increased the price of its beer by 3p a pint, blaming soaring production costs.

GLAMOUR model Jordan emerged from the I'm A Celebrity jungle, declaring she was totally besotted with fellow contestant Peter Andre. She said her feelings for former boyfriend Stuart were crushed the moment she met the Mysterious Girl singer, whose picture she had on her wall as a child.

DEPUTY Prime Minister John Prescott was in Wolverhampton to launch the city's flagship Market Square development.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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LETTERS

OAPs deserve better than IDS plans

IAIN Duncan Smith has said that if the Conservatives get in in 2015 (they only got in last time with the help of the Lib Dems), he is going to stop pensioners' fuel allowance, bus passes and we will all have to pay for a television licence.

He also said that nothing will be ring-fenced anymore.

I hope, if this happens, it also applies to the millions of pounds that we send abroad in aid every year to countries that have more money than we do.

This pitiful excuse for a Government has already let the fuel companies exploit this country with sky-high bills, so that it is not only pensioners who can't afford to warm their homes but people with young families and one parent families as well.

Food bills are rising so we can't afford to eat but, if we could afford to eat, we can't get to the shops because IDS is going to stop our bus passes.

Not every pensioner can afford, or drive, a car.

Most pensioners can't afford a TV licence, so will not be able to watch TV.

If you are sick, because this pathetic Government has stopped bus passes you will not be able to get to hospital and, if you do manage to, because the Conservatives have decimated the NHS by cutting staff levels, you will probably have to wait hours to be seen and not get the treatment you require.

I and many like me (I am 75) have worked hard all our lives, brought our families up, never claimed benefits, always paid NI and taxes — and we deserve better.

J GARFIELD
Halesowen

It's time to stop the foreign aid

NIGEL Farage is quite right in calling for foreign aid to be diverted to help our own stricken countrymen and women.

Now MPs are belatedly echoing Mr Farage's plea.

Whenever a tragedy happens overseas the British public put their hands in their pockets, pull out their cheque books and give with generous hearts.

Our successive governments have happily put their hands in our pockets again and given British money to foreign regimes — and these are often corrupt foreign regimes.

Enough is enough.

Cut foreign aid and use the money to alleviate the suffering of our own folk.

S BARTON
Stourbridge

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Halt HS2 and use money to halt floods

FLOODING defences are the main priority for this country.

Lord Smith from the Environmentally Agency states that we may have to choose between which we want to protect from flooding, homes or Countryside as there isn't a bottomless money pit.

I say to Lord Smith there shouldn't have to be a choice.

If this is to be the norm in the future, due to climate change, we may be having this problem of flooding every year. To me this has to be one of the main priorities for this country in this coming decade.

I'll tell Mr Smith and David Cameron where to find the money. To halt the programme on the HS2 and use the £80bn pounds on flooding defences for this country.

Having seen the devastating amount of flooding in parts of the country, surely this has to be one of the priorities.

B WHITEHOUSE
Wartell Bank
Kingswinford

Agency is just not up to scratch

PLEASE, could someone get the Environment Agency to wake up to its responsibility?

On Sunday we decided to go for a trip by car, just to get a breath of fresh air. Being responsible we looked on the Flood Line to check where we should avoid. Surprise, surprise the warnings page was unavailable, due to 'problems'.

We live in the Black Country but we totally sympathise with those on the Somerset Levels, who have been ignored by those who are paid very well to do a job.

Perhaps the floods have to be in the South East of the country for people to get the service they deserve?

Even the 0845 number was a total mistake by those in charge.

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CLUB NEWS

Quiz held to replace the speaker

GRANGE 'E' GUILD

THE monthly meeting of Grange 'E' Guild was held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on Tuesday February 4.

In the absence of the chairman Hazel Smith, Jill Attwood read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved and signed. Jill then presented an up-to-date financial report.

Secretary Jean Williams had received thank you cards from members of West Midlands Federation and Oldswinford Guild who had attended the Christmas party saying how much they had enjoyed the evening.

Marlene O'Hanlon informed members that the next meeting of the Luncheon Club would be held at the Hollybush on Monday, March 10.

There was no speaker for the evening but one of the members, Jackie Hill, held a quiz which everyone enjoyed it with all members receiving a small gift. Thanks were given to Jackie for providing the questions.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were served by our hostess for the evening, Joan Biddlestone.

The next meeting on March 4 will be the AGM to be followed by a fish and chip supper.

The guild are recruiting for new members and visitors will be made most welcome.

For further information please contact secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

Ladies bring items close to their hearts

John Sparry will be the guest speaker at the next meeting

KINGSWINFORD TG

THE February meeting was very busy. The club welcomed three visitors, a new member and a member from the former Wall Heath Guild, who has decided to join.

The usual formal business being completed, names were taken for those wishing to go to the St George's Day celebration in April and for volunteers for the Federation quiz.

In an unusual evening, members were invited to bring items dear to their hearts and explain why they were so special – husbands were excluded,

There was a wide variety of things dolls, flags, a quilt, a dolls cot, even a meerschaum pipe. The reasons why they were so special were not necessarily obvious but they had constant a thread of love, family or sheer goodness of heart running through them.

This was followed by a bring and buy sale. Chris Groves won the raffle.

The next meeting is the AGM in the Community Centre on March 10. John Sparry will be the speaker.

Old friends kick off new year

CLENT GARDENING CLUB

THE Gardening Club finished off 2013 in style with a November supper in Clent parish hall.

There was a full house, a good meal and finished off the evening with entertainment from Richard Westcott who entertained everyone with his experiences as a pantomime dame.

Richard bought a few of his various outfits with him and modelled not only the outfits but also the face make-up and pantomime songs. The club began 2014 off with the AGM where the chairman Pat Orme and treasurer Julian Traves were voted in for a further 12 months. Secretary Janet Babb was replaced by Anne Hunt.

The club has a full programme for 2014 beginning on February 28 with Rob and Diane Cole, old friends of the club, with a talk entitled "Look at That".

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NEWS

Fairytale couple are to slim for cancer charity

IT was a fairytale wedding to remember — Shrek and Princess Fiona tying the knot in front of more than 100 people at a ceremony and raising thousands of pounds for charity.

But now the couple who dressed up as the characters for their movie-themed wedding want to go a step further in their fund-raising mission and lose weight this year to bring in even more cash for Cancer Research UK.

Nathan and Amanda Gibbs, of Kingswinford, were married at Dudley's Priory Hall in December but following their honeymoon and a belt-busting Christmas, the Larch Road couple are determined to shed 15 stone between them.

Nathan Gibbs and Amanda Billington getting married as Shrek and Princess Fiona

Nathan Gibb, seen with wife Amanda, is helping charity with a sponsored slim

Ironing

The couple, who run ironing business The Iron Maidens, raised almost £4,000 for the cancer charity at their film-themed wedding. About 120 guests turned up for the ceremony and reception at The Old Courthouse in Kingswinford, many also dressed in fairy tale costumes.

But now the pair aim to double their current fund-raising total after embarking on their weight-loss project, which will last until the end of this year. They are raising money for the cancer charity after they lost seven customers in 12 months to the disease. A total of 23 customers have been impacted by cancer.

Mr Gibbs, 39, who has been given a free year pass at Paragon Fitness in Kingswinford, saims to lose 10 stone.

He said: "When we thought about it we couldn't believe how many people we knew who were impacted by cancer, so we decided to try and do something about it.

"It started as a head-shave by Amanda and then, from initially deciding to have a small wedding ceremony, we went for the Shrek-themed wedding. It came to us because we always joked we would never get married but if we did I would be Shrek and Amanda would be Princess Fiona. Then, when watching the film one day, we said let's do it.

"Losing weight for charity is just another way we want to raise money, while also getting healthy."

"Amanda has already made a good start. By raising cash at the same time is a good way to push us on."

Mrs Gibbs, 44, has already lost a stone since beginning a daily walking regime from the start of the year. She said: "We both aim to double the amount raised from the wedding. We've already had £300 come in."

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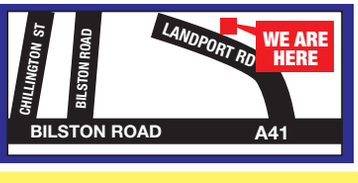

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Immigration is important issue for people in borough

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

"I promise that I'll push for a new immigration bill... in the first 12 months of the next government if I'm re-elected next year"

PEOPLE often tell me that politicians in Westminster don't care what they've got to say about immigration but I think it's an important issue and politicians should be listening.

That's why I wrote to thousands of local people at the end of last year to find out their views on the issue.

I had a huge response. Over 84 per sent said immigration was a very important issue.

Citizenship

More than nine out of ten agreed with me that people should have to pass English and citizenship tests and prove they have skills that our country needs before moving here.

And 70 per cent thought people moving here should pay taxes before getting benefits and free healthcare.

There was huge support for action on employment — more than nine out of ten wanted action to stop employers that hire workers solely from abroad and pay less than the minimum wage.

Almost everyone said that border controls need to be tightened. That's no surprise when border checks have halved since 2010.

The Government has to get a grip on this — there's no point in having tough rules for people coming here if they're not being enforced.

I want local people's views to be heard in London, so I promise that I'll push for a new immigration bill addressing these concerns in the first 12 months of the next government if I'm re-elected next year.

I AM sure many other local football fans of my generation will remember Dudley Town hosting York City at the old County Ground — now the Castle Gate complex — in the first round proper of the FA Cup in 1977. It was a massive occasion for the Robins.

In those days, the club was one league below what is now the conference but we're now the biggest place in the country with no league football team.

Dudley Town now plays at the Dell and is run entirely by volunteers.

Rising costs are always a problem for amateur sports clubs, but we can all help support our local club by becoming a Friend of Dudley Town.

Supporting

For just £1 a week, you will get free entry to all home league games and a quarterly newsletter.

Every penny will go straight to supporting the club.

For more information contact Club Chairman Stephen Austin on 07412 046 050.

WELL done to Generations Unite, a team of 16 to 20 year olds from Dudley College Duke of Edinburgh Award group.

They have organised an initiative to bring the younger and older generations of Dudley together with the aim of offering financial education, reducing isolation and getting different generations talking and listening to each other.

The Generations Unite conference takes place tomorrow, Friday, February 21, at Dudley College from 12.30-1.30pm with a number of speakers and events.

The team have asked me to extend their invitation to all of Dudley's senior citizens.

I KNOW lots of people say politicians are out of touch or that voting doesn't matter but I work hard with local councillors to do things differently and listen to local people.

Whether it's anti-social behaviour, the state of the roads or fighting for more car parking spaces, we're here for people and work as hard as we can to help.

If there's a problem in your area you think I should know about, I'm on your side and I want to work together to sort it out.

Please get in touch by emailing me on austini@parliament.uk or by calling me on 01384 342 503.

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NEWS

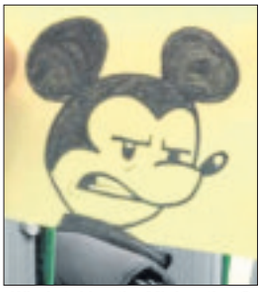
Cartoon capers just ticket for commuter

WHAT do you do to entertain yourself during the daily slog to and from work?

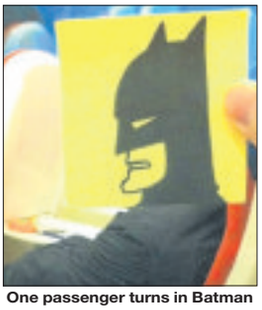
Perhaps you get stuck into a good book, read the paper, furiously try to smash your high score on Flappy Bird or maybe you have a snooze.

But one talented illustrator has found a new way to kill time on his train commute - by turning his fellow travellers into cartoon characters.

University of Wolverhampton graduate animator Joe Butcher, who is better known by his Twitter handle and pen name October Jones, has been using sticky notes and his seemingly boundless imagination to transform strangers on a train into hilarious cartoons.



Who's taking the Mickey then?



One passenger turns in Batman

Where's Wally? Right here

Spiderman takes the train

Boredom

The unwitting victims of his pranks have been given the features of beloved characters such as Batman, Spiderman, and, in one ingenious snapshot, Wile E. Coyote even appears to be chasing Road Runner.

The clever creations are doodled onto the small pieces of paper, and then held in just the right position for a funny photograph to be taken - the image is then uploaded to social network websites.

When asked on Twitter why he did took the time, Mr Butcher wrote: "I did them to combat boredom on my long commute."

He has seemingly shared his journeys with a gruff Winnie the Pooh, Danger Mouse's soft-spoken sidekick Penfold, Kermit The Frog, Daffy Duck and comic book favourite Hellboy.

People-cum-cartoons include an annoyed Mickey Mouse, with the caption: "Howdy. I'm on a train. This guy just caught me laughing at his squeaky voice."

ET the Extra Terrestrial also appears to be slightly miffed. The Twitter caption reads: "On train. Found seat. I just told this guy off for using his phone in the Quiet Zone. I don't care who he's phoning."

The drawings have been getting world-wide attention, having been reposted thousands of times on a number of social websites after initially being tweeted to October Jones' 77,000 Twitter followers. Mr Butcher, under his pseudonym, is also the mastermind behind the -popular Texts From Dog, an internet craze that has led to two published books, called Texts From Dog and The Dog Delusion, the latter being published in October.

Picture credit: @OctoberJones

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NEWS

Head girl gains free place at a top school

HEAD girl Xara Davies may come from an 'ordinary' Black Country family but now she's won a free place at one of the world's leading independent schools.

The 16-year-old from Dudley, who attends Four Dwellings Academy in Quinton, and is predicted to gain A* and A grades in her GCSEs, passed rigorous entrance exams to get into the sixth form at Cheltenham Ladies' College.

After shining at her interviews there, she was offered a fully funded bursary for the college, where fees are normally more than £30,000 a year.

Talented

Vice principal at Four Dwellings Academy Ian Trevethick, who came up with the idea for her to apply to the top college, said: "Xara is a bit of a special girl. She's very talented and deserves the chance to excel."

Xara, who lives with parents, Ken and Vanessa, and brothers, Mason, aged 11, and Harvey, 10, in Warrens Hall Road, Sledmere Estate, Dudley, said: "I'm very excited and proud."

She is set to study A Levels in history, maths, further maths, English literature, government and politics when she starts at Cheltenham Ladies' College in September. Xara is also a pianist and performs in productions at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre.

Mr Trevethick said: "Cheltenham Ladies' College were very keen to have her. She came second among all the entrants to the college from all over the world. The offer of a place there is unconditional upon her results this summer but we are predicting a clutch of A* and As for her."

He added: "She is very mature and is our head girl. She is also caring, kind and considerate and fully focused."

Xara Davies 16, with Four Dwellings vice principal Ian Trevethick

Xara is not the first Four Dwellings pupil to win a free place at a top public school.

In 2010 Jake Hayden-Wright went to study at Eton, the school near Windsor that has produced 18 Prime Ministers, including David Cameron.

Mr Trevethick now has hopes that Xara may aim for a place at one of America's 'Ivy League' universities, such as Harvard or Yale. She says she would ultimately like to be a lawyer or psychologist.

Xara's mother Vanessa said: "We're just an ordinary family and we are extremely proud of our daughter's wonderful achievement, as are her brothers."

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Water cannon idea rejected

THE Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands has said he is unwilling to contribute towards the cost of a water cannon s and has described the riot control measure as being 'as much use as a chocolate teapot'.

Bob Jones has spoken out about plans for forces to contribute towards the possible purchase of a water cannon being considered by the Metropolitan Police. He said: "Current proposals for the use of water cannon do envisage such resources being partly funded from the West Midlands Police budget set by myself and also have implications for the style of policing."

He said that the water cannon could become a liability rather than an asset, using scarce police resources. "I feel such equipment would be as much use as a chocolate tea pot," he added.

A Black Country twang — does it lower the tone?

SUE Lawley ecalled a moment during her university days when she was waiting in the cold for the bus with her new room-mate from Surrey.

"I hopped up and down and said: 'Coom on, buzz'. Jenny turned to me and said 'what did you say?' After that it just hit me that I sounded different."

That night, back in 1964, the Dudley-born broadcaster made a conscious decision to get rid of her Black Country accent. But sadly, half a century on, it seems that speaking with a Black Country burr is still considered to be a hindrance.

Colley Lane School in Cradley imposed a 'zero tolerance' policy on the use of Black Country dialect. Headmaster John White said: "We are seeing that some children coming in are not able to speak very much at all to be honest," he said. "We want tto improve their standards in English. It is the foundation of everything."

The school has been at great pains to point out that it is incorrect grammar and pronunciation, rather than the Black Country accent, which the school is cracking down on.

But there is still a perception outside the Midlands that anybody who speaks with a Black Country or Brummie accent is – not to put too fine a point on it – a bit thick.

A survey by pollsters Comres found that 33 per cent of those questioned considered a Birmingham accent to be 'unintelligent', with only Liverpudlian worse.

But TV presenter Adrian Chiles, who was born in Quinton and grew up in Hagley, believes prejudices about his tones have worked in his favour. He said: "I'm relaxed about the rest of the country pre-judging me as thick because there's no better starting point for any social or professional encounter."

NHS £1m for agency workers

MORE than £1 million has been spent on agency staff to run the controversial NHS 111 phone service in the West Midlands.

Temporary staff have been taken on by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

The emergency service was forced to take on the workers under the terms of the contract to run the phone line that caters for non-emergency health calls, which it took over from NHS Direct in November.

NHS Direct pulled out of operating the service after saying the contract was too expensive.

But when the ambulance service took it on it was told it had to also inherit phone service staff from employment agency Conduit.

This amounted to around half of those employed to run the service – around 123 equivalent full time positions.

What a night little monkey at safari park

Night monkey Barney settling in at the safari park

YOU may have heard of night owls, well meet Barney – a rare night monkey, who is settling in at the West Midlands Safari park.

The 12-week-old monkey was born at West Midlands Safari Park and is fast becoming a favourite among its staff.

He is a Douroucouli – more commonly known as a night monkey or owl monkey — from South America.

He was born on November 24 and despite his tiny stature, he is already becoming quite independent, eating solid food and learning to sit on the scales to be weighed.

His wide eyes are to help his night vision. The genus name 'Aotus' also means 'earless' and comes from the fact his ears are extremely small.

In the wild, his breed live high in the trees in family groups. They live up to 20 years in captivity. Adult pairs are monogamous. Barney's father is six-year old Ilay and the mother is Kyna who is four. Both parents arrived at the park last May from a zoo in Switzerland. Though called Barney, staff are still not sure whether the little monkey is actually a boy or a girl. Barney may be seen in the Twilight Cave during half term.

More than 10,000 chasing 450 jobs

MORE than 10,000 people have expressed an interest in becoming a West Midlands police officer in just four days.

The force is putting 450 jobs up for grabs as it ends a five-year recruitment freeze.

And huge interest is being shown in the new constable roles, which will be rolled out over the next two years.

The formal application process doesn't begin until April and chiefs said there was no cap on how many people could register an interest.

However, a surge of people have already registered their interest in the positions for which salaries start from £21,999.

Potential applicants were asked to register on the force's website from last Monday and by Thursday night 10,500 had done so.

Traffic on the website soared as soon as it went live with up to 1,800 visitors viewing the page at its peak.

Chiefs said the new recruits would bring fresh ideas to the force.

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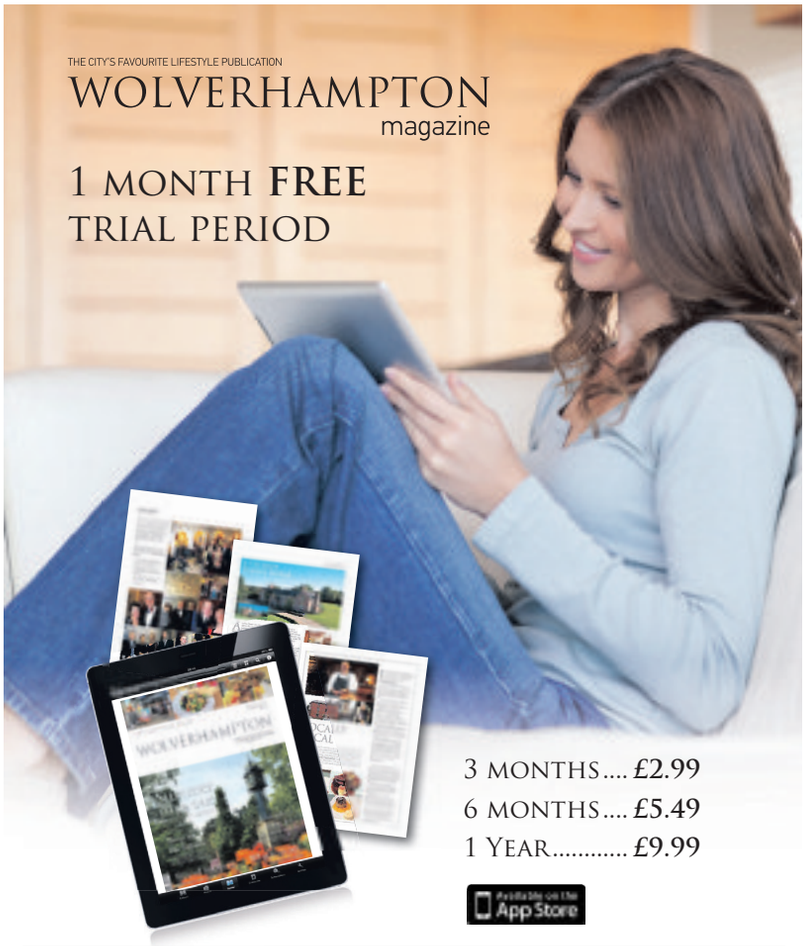

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NEWS

H-ale and hearty future for this historic brewery

THE oldest brewery in England is looking to ramp up its sales in the Black Country and Staffordshire after increasing its production.

The Three Tuns Brewery in Bishop's Castle in Shropshire is set to smash the £1 million sales barrier for the first time in its history, 10 years since two real ale lovers saved it from potential closure.

One of them was John Russell, from Sedgley, who said: "We're now up to 100 brewer's barrels per week and have set our sights on increasing the number of pubs we supply. The Black Country is a big growth area for us and you can already find Three Tuns beers in the The Barley Mow at Penn Common and The Crown at Pattingham.

Born in Sedgley and a lifelong Wolves supporter, Mr Russell went to Alder Coppice Primary and then Smestow Comprehensive School in Wolverhampton.

Threat

He worked at NatWest's London headquarters before 14 years as a future trader on the Chicago, London, New York and Singapore exchanges.

His success resulted in him being appointed a director of NatWest Banking Division at the age of 29, one of the youngest ever appointees.

In 1995, Mr Russell was headhunted as global head of Yamaichi Futures Options, building the business over four years and leaving it as one of the top 10 Wall Street brokerages. In 1999 he made the decision to completely change his lifestyle and moved back to his roots to be closer to his family in Shropshire.

The Three Tuns Brewery was lying empty and its home under threat of conversion into housing when John and his business partner Bill Bainbridge stepped into save the business.

He explained:"I've always enjoyed real ale so when I heard about the situation facing the Three Tuns I knew I had to do something to preserve one of the country's greatest historical assets."

More than 500 pubs are now stocking the company's cask conditioned ales, with the next stage of its expansion focusing on building up its presence within the Black Country and Staffordshire.

The duo have invested nearly £900,000 into creating a state-of-the-art brewing system.

Cheers! Joint owner John Russell outside the Three Tuns Brewery

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Thug attacked mother and daughter with bottle

IT started as a normal Saturday night out for Nicole Hill but when the beautician spurned a clubber's advances it ended with her being scarred for life after the thug attacked her with a bottle.

Report by Alex Ross

Left with a four-inch cut to the back of her head, the 20-year-old has spoken of how the brutal attackhas left her scared to go out while her attacker is still at large.

Nicole had been out with her mother Lorraine, 47, and two of her friends at Benjamins in Halesowen when the assault took place.

Nicole, who works at Imagine Spa at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill, said: "We were on the dance floor and a man kept backing into me. When I moved away he then began gesturing with his fingers behind my back.

"I made it clear to him that he should leave me alone. Then I looked round at him again and he was holding a glass bottle upside down in his hand as if to say 'come on then'.

"My mother got in between us to say 'go away' to him but then he hit my mother and, as she fell, she pulled me down with her.

"I can't remember what exactly happened next but by our cuts we think he smashed the bottle against the back of our heads while we were on the floor. The next thing I knew, he was gone.

"It was really scary. I remember thinking this is serious, something bad could happen here, much worse than the cuts to our heads. I was worried for our lives."

The mother and daughter, who live in Halesowen, were taken to Russells Hall Hospital following the attack in the early hours of November 16.

Nicole required seven stitches to the cut on her head. Her mother needed a gash on her head sealed with glue and stitches on an eyebrow.

Nicole, who had to take three weeks off work, said: "I wear my hair up at work and I can feel the bald patch around the scar. I don't think hair will ever grow back there."

She added: "This man needs to be a bigger person and admit to what he has done and clear his conscious — who says he won't do something like this again?"

"I have only been out for a couple of special occasions since. It has made me scared going out."

In December a 26-year-old man was arrested but was subsequently released without charge.

Detective Constable Dave Hackett, from West Midlands Police, said: "This attack has been a life changing event for the mum and her daughter and I would urge anyone who can help to contact us immediately."

Fair way to trade marked by events

FAIRTRADE is taking centre stage in Dudley during a fortnight of celebrations.

Dudley Council is backing Fairtrade Fortnight (February 24 to March 9) and supporting the activity of two borough groups. Sedgley Fairtrade Initiative and Stourbridge Fairtrade will be holding a range of activities.

Cookery

The Sedgley group's main event is on February 28 from 11am to 2pm at the Sedgley Co-op on Dudley Street and will include cookery demonstrations, tastings and a Fairtrade craft stall.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, will be calling in at 1pm to learn about the group's work and the substantial support that Sedgley Co-op has given to the group.

Other activities in the borough include a free Fairtrade tea and coffee tasting session organised by Stourbridge Fairtrade on March 8 from 10am to noon at St Thomas's Church Hall on Market Street.

The Mayor will also be dropping by Sainsbury's Amblecote tomorrow.

Play causes bedroom fire

A THREE-YEAR-OLD boy playing with a gas ring ignitor caused a pile of clothes to set alight sparking a fire in a back bedroom.

Fire crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill were called to the end terrace house in Smallshire Way, Stourbridge, at around 3.30pm on Monday

All of the people in the property at the time, a man, woman and the child, has already made it safely outside by the time officers arrived. The man had suffered slight smoke inhalation.

The fire was contained within the bedroom and firefighters used breathing equipment to reach the blaze and extinguish it.

Sounds of soul

THE Kingfisher Country Club, Wall Heath, has a night of soul music on Saturday.

Soul'd Out, a local 13-piece band, will be playing Motown and Northern Soul classics. Tickets cost £7.50 on 01384 686000 or online, or £10 on the door.

Fitness boot camp promises new style

Ann Oqua on shoulders of Lee Morgan, left, and Joshua Burchell, with Amy Faulkner, Esther Nash and Tim Jackson

AN internet entrepreneur from Dudley and his friend are to get tough at an urban boot camp club with a difference.

Joshua Burchell, aged 24, and Lee Morgan, 31, will launch Total Body Fitness (TBF) on Saturday, March 1, on the car park of Champions Church in Netherton. Their aim is to combine heath and fitness awareness by inspiring people to "reduce blood pressures and body mass."

Joshua and Lee are both qualified trainers and first-aiders and have lost a combined weight of eight stone.

"There is a proven marketplace for outdoor training but what we have in mind is far from the perceived Sergeant Major-style delivery of barking orders," said Joshua. "Dudley, like most of the West Midlands, struggles with high levels of obesity and type 2 diabetes. We would like to think TBF could help towards addressing that problem."

The launch day begins at 10am on the floodlit site of Champions Church, Cinder Bank. Hour-long sessions will be held there on Tuesdays at 6pm, Thursdays at 7pm and Saturdays at 10am.

Listen to us, say the young

MORE than 1,700 young people have signed a petition calling for their views to be considered as Dudley Council makes £50 million worth of cost-cutting plans.

Dudley Youth Council has handed in the signatures to the council along with a letter raising its concerns about proposals to scale back the borough's youth service.

Meet

Finance boss Pete Lowe has now offered to meet youth council members to discuss their petition.

The council ran its Big Question consultation asking residents about what services they want to be protected, but it was open to people aged 18 and above. Around 2,500 people responded to that consultation.

The youth council has argued that as youth services are one of the departments under threat of cuts their views should be considered.

Council officer push costs £1k

A PREGNANT council officer was verbally assaulted and pushed by a man as she carried out a routine investigation at his home.

Intaj Ali, of 21, Meadow Road, Halesowen, was charged with obstructing the officer who was investigating a planning issue on March 19. Dudley Magistrates Court found Ali guilty of verbally assaulting the officer, who was three months pregnant at the time of the incident, and physically pushing her from the site.

Ali was fined £150 for the offence and ordered to pay costs of £695 and compensation, to be paid directly to the officer, of £300 – a total sum of £1,145.

Councillor Judy Foster said:"One of our roles as a local authority is to identify, investigate and consider alleged planning breaches and take any necessary action. This process protects local residents and businesses. I hope that the court's judgement gives out a clear message that we will never tolerate abuse towards council officers. Council staff should not have to accept offensive and aggressive behaviour."

Flats plan at 'eyesore' site

A 'DREAM come true' scheme to create six one-bedroom flats on vacant overgrown land has been approved by planners.

The site, in Meeting Street, Netherton, has long been 'an eyesore' and a concern to people living in a row of terraced houses opposite.

Members of Dudley Council's development control committee on Monday said they were 'very pleased' the land would be developed.

Access to the new building will be through a parking area to the rear and there will be small landscaped areas to the front enclosed by a wall and railings.

Only a single objection was raised to the plans from a nearby resident concerned it would be overdevelopment of the site. They were also concerned that flats was an inappropriate development for the area.

But planning officers recommended the scheme be approved saying the layout and scale of the development was considered acceptable.

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MEMORY LANE

Ready for battle – troops of 1st Parachute Squadron in action at Arnhem

Tom and comrades at barracks in Hampshire in 1939

Tom, aged 23, centre, with fellow trainee paras, in September, 1942

Tom Hicks pictured during a return to Arnhem in 2007

Soldier, soldier – Tom in his paratrooper's uniform, aged 23

Arnhem — Tom's memories of the battle for a bridge too far

THE memories of the battle of Arnhem of Sapper Tom Hicks, who served in the 1st Parachute Squadron, are brought to life in a memoir written by his son Norman, of Kinver.

The memoir, based on personal diaries and taped recollections, paints a dramatic picture of what it was like for thousands of young men who took part in the ill-fated attempt to capture the bridge across the River Rhine in 1944.

Determination

Tom, who is now 94, describes his descent onto the landing zone at Renkum, around seven miles from Arnhem: "It took as little as 20 seconds to reach the ground and an immediate awareness came over you as you took in what was happening around and above you," he says. "Men, containers and loose debris were still rapidly descending. Looking up, the canopies were still falling around me presenting a colourful sight"

by Mark Andrews

Tom's participation in Arnhem was the result of his determination to participate in the war effort. As a locomotive driver, he was in a reserved occupation and when he applied to join the Commandos he was refused leave from his railway duties. "However, he then applied to join the paras, and they were told nobody could refuse to release anybody who had applied for the paras," says his son Norman, himself a 65-year-old former RAF man.

Tom tells of how he was filled with confidence when he, along with 2,277 other paratroopers, landed at Renkum on September 17, 1944. Almost immediately it became apparent that things were not going to plan.

Only half the Reconnaissance Squadron's Jeeps arrived due to several gliders failing to make it. It was five hours before the British troops reached the key bridge over the Rhine and they were only able to control the northern end. They found themselves surrounded by German troops. Most of the group that Tom had been with during the clean-up operation at the drop zone had been killed or injured. "It was obvious to us that things were beginning to fall apart," he says.

Tom had already received a shrapnel wound to the back of his neck and during the sixth day he was hit in almost exactly the same place. "I lost the sensation in my legs and I could feel the blood running down my back," he says.

He was taken by stretcher to a house which had been converted into a makeshift first-aid station. For Tom this would mean the end of the fighting. On September 24 a medical officer came in and told the injured men that the division would be retreating across the river and that the wounded would be left behind for the Germans to take prisoner.

"I lay on the floor for two days, during which time the house was hit by shell fire several times, and some of the wounded were wounded again," says Tom. "Men were moaning and some were screaming."

On September 26, the Germans announced their arrival by poking the gun of a tank through the window of the house. 'Ha! I am the gunner of this tank, the best tank in the world,' sneered the young crewman.

An SS officer then came into the room, accompanied by three other soldiers, and inquired about the welfare of an injured SS sergeant lying next to Tom. "I could tell he was asking if we had treated him well," recalls Tom.

"'Ja, ja,' he replied, pointing at me and repeating, 'komrad, komrad', explaining that I had given him water." The SS officer surprised Tom by shaking his hand.

Tom was taken to the Stalag XIB Prisoner of War camp. "Two of my mates came into see me before they were due to attempt to break out," Tom remembers. "They left with a wave and a final 'see you Tom, when we get home'." One of those friends was Allan 'Wakey' Wake, a 19-year-old . He was shot trying to make his escape across a river — one of more than 15,000 young men who would never return.

Captured At Arnhem, from Railwayman to Paratrooper, is published by Pen & Sword Books, priced £25.

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NEWS

Water way to breathe life into tourist boat

Colin Clements working on the restoration of the 70ft Blackcountryman narrow boat at The Bonded Warehouse dry dock

A NARROWBOAT which showcases the West Midlands waterways to tourists has been on dry land for a £10,000 revamp.

But now the 70ft boat is ready to be returned to the water ahead of a new season of trips following the five-week restoration project.

The Blackcountryman takes hundreds of passengers on pleasure cruises operated by Stourbridge Navigation Trust.

It is moored at the Stourbridge Town Arm canal basin next to the canalside attraction, the Bonded Warehouse, off Canal Street, Stourbridge.

But after a season of toil up and down the waterways, it was time to take the boat into the trust's dry dock in early January for running repairs.

The fibre glass roof had been cracked having been exposed to the elements over the years and needed a revamp.

Rotten wood has been removed from the roof hatches and replaced, and improvements to the boat's disabled access have been made. There has also been a paint job to spruce up the outside which will be touched up once the boat is back in the water.

Ashwood-based J H Trimmings have produced new fixtures for the boat during the repair work overseen by dock manager Andy Downing.

The boat made 55 trips last year and Bonded Warehouse manager Colin Clements says they expect more this coming season. It acts as a regular fundraiser to help the navigation trust plough money into the maintenance of the canalside attraction and waterways.

Mr Clement said: "It was in need of a revamp and some running repairs so it was a good time for these to be done. The money we spend on the boat is as much an investment in the area because it is a part of the community.

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The search is on to find ladies for Fawlty Towers

A VERSION of much-loved British sitcom Fawlty Towers is coming to the Black Country.

Members of Mayhem Theatre are busy rehearsing their homage to the popular show. But they are on the lookout for the last piece of the jigsaw – two actresses to play the parts of old dears Miss Tibbs and Miss Gatsby.

There will be a cast of 23, which includes Dave Francis Williams as angry hotel manager Basil Fawlty and Matt Webb as hapless Spanish waiter Manuel.

But group founder Mark Moran said the two ladies were essential to the production. He added: "We are hoping it will appeal to someone who maybe has retired from am dram but fancies a taste of it again or maybe to somebody who just thinks it sounds like fun. They wouldn't need to be there for every rehearsal but we would really like to have them in the production. "

The group holds rehearsals on Wednesdays at the French Hen in Clent. The original BBC comedy featured John Cleese as Basil Fawlty, Prunella Scales as his wife Sybil and Andrew Sachs as Manuel. Mayhem Theatre will be performing the show from April 30 to May 3 at the Hardwicke Theatre at Thorns Community College, Quarry Bank. Contact Mr Moran on 01215507977 or 07973779496 or visit www.mayhemtheatre.co.uk

Dave Francis Williams as Basil Fawlty with Matt Webb as Manuel for the stage version of Fawlty Towers

Concern at impact of teachers' strike

A TEACHER'S strike planned for next month will hit companies across the Black Country while leaving parents struggling to find childcare say business bosses.

The NUT says its members will walk out of classrooms across the West Midlands on March 26, in a dispute over pay, pensions and conditions. If the industrial action goes ahead, it will be the third national strike since 2011 and will mean parents are forced to either take a day off work to look after their child or find alternative care.

Ninder Johal, vice president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses across the area, said he believed the strike action would see a big impact on small and medium companies operating in the area.

He added: "I know the disruption action like this causes businesses. Parents will have less hassle in the sense that they have plenty of time to plan for it but this will cause lots of disruption for small and medium-sized enterprises."

Russ Bragger, general secretary of Walsall NUT, said members felt they had 'no choice' and had already put off industrial action in the hope of a breakthrough.

Transport services to be saved as staff are hit

AN EXTRA £1 million in cuts will have to be found from the staffing and operations budget at transport authority Centro after officials decided not to cut services to the public.

By Lisa O'Brien

Councillors on the authority met last week to vote on the 2014/15 budget, with 15 councillors welcoming the proposals and seven voting against.

Initial plans to increase half-price children's bus fares to two-thirds were thrown out as councillors implemented a £7 million budget cut.

Increased

The organisation had originally considered scrapping its funding for Ring and Ride, which provides a door-to-door service for pensioners and disabled people, but its annual grant will instead be cut to £8.5m — £2m less than this financial year.

The 60p fee for the service will be increased to £1 from April.

Councillors also voted to safeguard free bus travel after 11pm for older people, the blind and disabled

Around 8,000 responses and three petitions were received during a consultation on the proposals, including one signed by 56,000 people making calls to maintain the level of funding to Ring and Ride services.

Now as a result of backtracking on the original proposals bosses will have to find another £1m of savings than originally planned from its operational and staffing costs, which is suffering a loss of £3m.

Before the meeting at Centro House in Birmingham, dozens of West Midlands Pensioners Convention members gathered outside with placards calling for Ring and Ride services to be saved.

Councillor John McNicholas, who chaired the meeting, said it was only right for Centro to reduce the budget given the dramatic cuts in Government funding being faced by councils.

He made reassurances during the meeting that feedback had been taken on board, adding: "The proposals at the beginning were £2m cuts to the operations budget. We are considering £3m cuts from the operations budget to minimise the impact on services for people in the West Midlands."

The approved budget also involved a £1m reduction in bus station and infrastructure maintenance, changes to subsidised bus access standards and measures to reduce financing costs.

Walsall Councillor Richard Worrall, who voted in favour of the proposals and was heavily involved in the Ring and Ride campaign, said alternative sources of funding for the service would need to be considered for the future.

Strong winds led to alert at nightclub

SEVERE weather sparked a major operation in Brierley Hill last week after a large metal drainpipe on the side of a nightclub came loose in the rough winds.

Fears were high the cast-iron pipe, measuring 65ft, on the Pulse nightclub building could plummet into neighbouring buildings or crash on to the busy Dudley Road.

The road was closed off at its junctions with High Street and Venture Way after the dislodged pipe was reported by nearby workers at around 8.30am on February 13.

A hydraulic platform from Oldbury was despatched to help crews carry out the work. Because of the weight of the pipe, officers had to cut it into sections in order to safely remove it from the side of the nightclub building so it no longer posed a danger.

The strong winds and wet weather also uprooted trees in Gospel End Road, Sedgley, and Lawnswood Road, Stourbridge.

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Women seeking men

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ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719**

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715**

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895**

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117**

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733**

ABI creative free spirited lady enjoys drama, photography, music, WLTM well-spoken patient, independent non-judgmental man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409723**

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925**

GOLDEN haired Asian orphan, looking for a strong hairy man who can make me feel pretty again. Willing to travel. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4267681**

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331**

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479**

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. **Tel: No. 0905 002 1957 Box 409991**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461**

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297**

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943**

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859**

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869**

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733**

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489**

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311**

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955**

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151**

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101**

Men seeking women

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TOM 55, looking for female any age for a discreet fifty shades of grey friendship and fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4236310**

A loving caring guy 54, who likes most things in life, would love to meet slim lady 45 to 59 for romance. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4170816**

WOLFIE 42 Seeks Wendy for football matches and nights in/out. Luvs gym keeping fit, seeking a nice girl for LTR. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4245943**

SINGLE male, 31, 6ft brown eyes seeks lady with gsoh for fun and possible LTR. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4267855**

6FT male, medium build, brown eyes, dark hair, fit, likes walks, football, holidays, country drives, seeks nice bubbly lady with many interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409851**

PAUL 55, 6ft 2ins, intelligent, down to earth, kind, genuine, honest, seeks female, 50-60 for relationship, many hobbies. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409783**

DAVE 54, seeking female, 40-51 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409839**

MARK 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, caring, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409803**

SINGLE white 40's male, looking for strictly no strings adult fun, any age/race/looks, genuine callers. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409613**

LOCAL businessman, seeking special friend for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409585**

SAM seeking lovely lady for great times likes sports, good standard of living, looking for some fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409527**

ATTRACTIVE male, 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, loving, genuine, seeks attractive female, single mum welcome, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409471**

PETE 6ft 1ins, likes body building, kick boxing, seeks female for love and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409451**

MASON single parent, seeking female for no strings fun times, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409443**

GARY 40, tall, dark hair, seeks female, 30-50 for fun and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409207**

MALE 53, looking to meeting 60-65 lady for adult fun times. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4234583**

MALE 45, GSOH 6ft. Many interests, seeks slim outgoing lady, for love or friendship. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4283955**

LUCA 67, 5ft 3ins, seeking some one for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410375**

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261**

PETE 6ft 1ins, body builder, likes kick boxing, daughter, seeking female, 30-40 for love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410245**

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REVIEWS

Comedy whips up a frenzy of laughs

51 Shades of Maggie, Grand Theatre

THERE were a few brave men there to witness what must have been a cringing reality check for them on a woman's determined mission to get a man.

But for us women it was simply hilarious. Direct from sell-out runs Leesa Harker's one-woman hit comedy 51 Shades of Maggie was a hoot. It all started life as a joke when Leesa wrote a Belfast-based spoof of 50 Shades of Grey but it very soon went viral and had 29,000 followers. It tells the story of working class girl Maggie Muff and her search for Mr Right.

Let down by the men in her life she is relentless in her quest to find the man of her dreams. It came with a warning of strong language and themes of adult nature but it was, as Kenny Everett would have said, all in the best possible taste – well nearly!

The setting was simply a huge bed as Dannielle Malone (Kelly in Hollyoaks), who played Maggie Muff, took us on a two-hour journey of love, booze and whips!

Maggie has always been let down by the men in her life.

Attending an interview at the social security office Maggie meets the handsome and hunky Mr Big who has a 'private room of pain".

It may have been painful for her but it was sheer pleasure for the audience

SUE ATTWATER

Jack Shepherd, left, appears with Terrence Hardiman in ghostly Grand production

Ghostly Signalman was the one on right track

Classic Ghosts, Grand Theatre

With the wind howling outside, there was probably no better time in which to immerse oneself in a spine-tingling ghost story or two.

And that is what Middle Ground Theatre Company was offering in the form of Classic Ghosts, which lavishly brought to the stage two undisputed classics of the genre, The Signalman and Oh, Whistle, And I'll Come to You, My Lad, with varying success.

The Signalman, the Charles Dickens tale inspired by the author's own near-death experience in the Staplehurst Railway Crash of 1865, translated itself to the stage well.

A fantastic set – a signal box in a bleak railway cutting next to a cavernous tunnel – proved perfect for this spooky story which has special significance for local audiences who recall the celebrated 1976 TV adaptation, filmed on the Severn Valley Railway.

As trains thundered by, a haunted signalman tells a passing traveller of a ghostly being which appeared to him before two tragedies – a crash in the tunnel and the murder of a passenger – and has now begun appearing again, suggesting a third tragedy is about to happen. Excellently staged, with a neat twist at the end, this was spooky storytelling at its finest.

Oh, Whistle – the M R James chiller about a fussy scholar who stumbles upon an ancient artefact which releases a supernatural manifestation, both real and psychological, which plagues its finder, suffered in comparison. Despite the best efforts of the cast, the tension was not cranked up sufficiently before the haunting came to its terrifying end.

Jack Shepherd, best known as Wycliffe in the TV adaptions of the same name, and Terrence Hardiman (The Demon Headmaster) play the lead roles in both tales.

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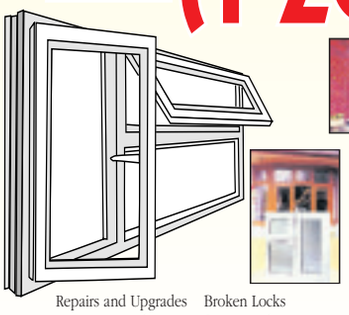

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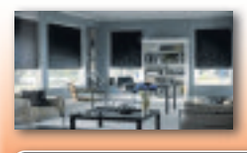

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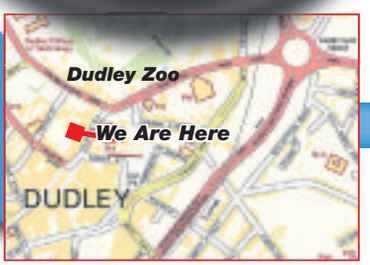

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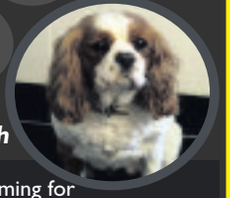

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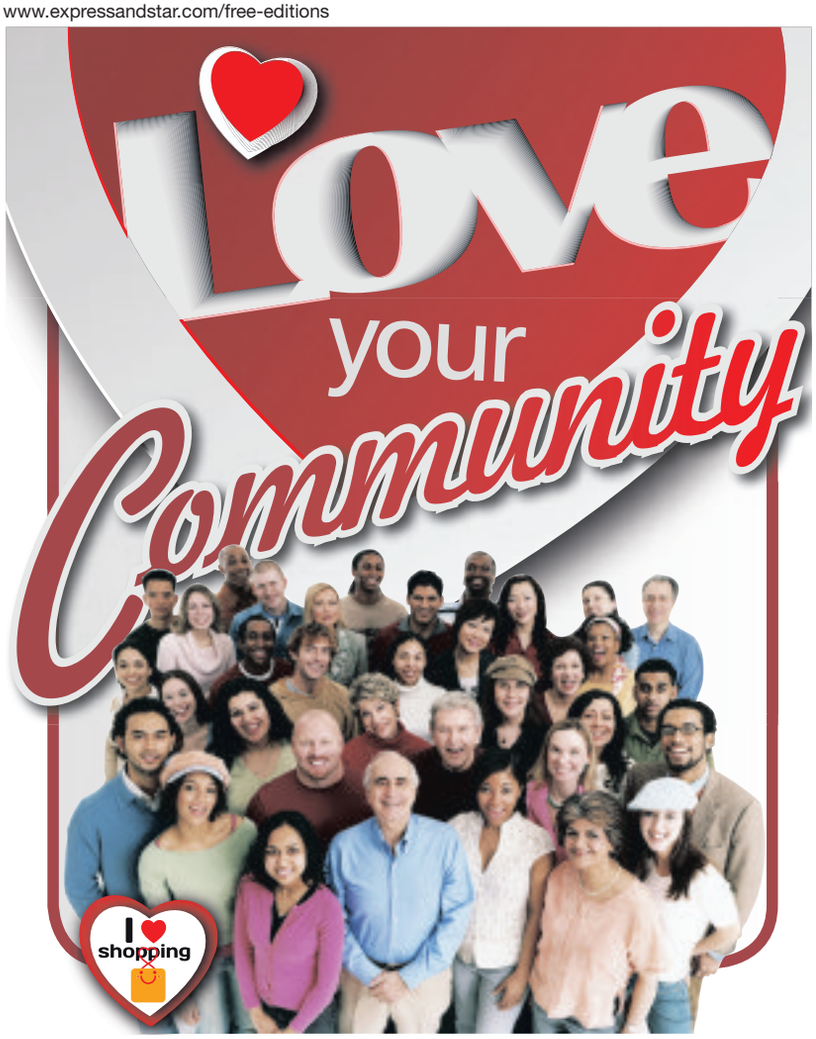

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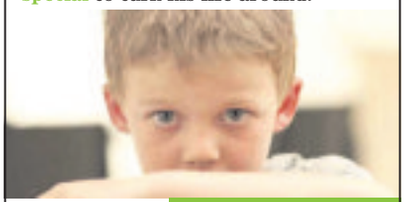

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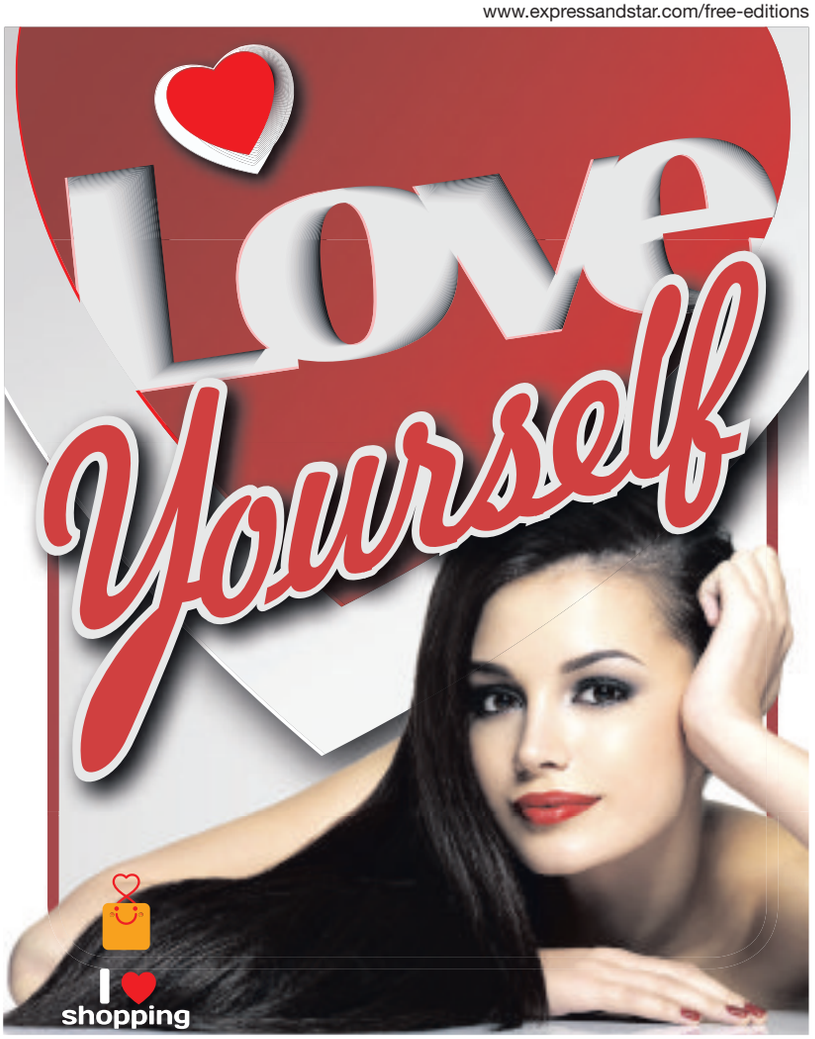

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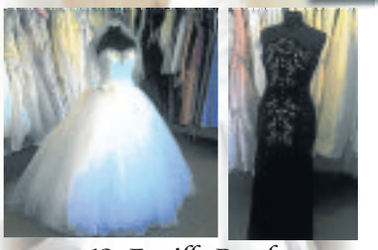

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What's On!

Slam Dunk rock festival at Civic

ROCKERS The All American Rejects will headline a popular music festival in Wolverhampton this year.

The Slam Dunk Festival attracted 5,000 people to the Wolverhampton Civic last year and organisers are hoping for even more this time around. The seven-stage event combines outdoor and indoor stages across the city.

Canterbury, Letlive, Bury Tomorrow, The Ghost Inside and Crown The Empire are also among the bands to perform in the festival's ninth year. The touring festival also takes place in Leeds and in Hertfordshire over three days in May, with the bands due to converge on Wolverhampton on Bank Holiday Monday, May 26. Tickets start from £38.50. All three dates sold out last year.

Fizzogs' panto time again... ay it

IRREPRESSIBLE Black Country comics The Fizzogs are back on the road with their characters the Froggatts and Cotterills presenting A Black Country Fairytale... Ay It!

Some of the area's best comedy talent combine for the show at Wolverhampton's Newhampton Arts Centre, in Dunkley Street, tonight and tomorrow. Tickets cost £12 and the show starts at 7.30pm.

For more information on Sue, Jackie, Deb and co's comic adventures, including their old lady hip hop flashmob in Birmingham city centre, see their website: www.fizzogproductions.co.uk

The memories come flooding back for Grand star Denise

Musical Reyes of the sun

AT this year's Grammy awards The Gipsy Kings — at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow — shared the Best World Music Album award with South Africa's Ladysmith Black Mambazo for their first album in six years, Savor Flamenco.

Based in the Camargue region of southern France, the Gipsy Kings are made up of musicians from two families–the Reyes from Arles and the Baliardos from Montpellier. In the 1960s Jose Reyes was singing with acclaimed flamenco guitarist Manitas de Plata. He then had his own band, Los Reyes, with his sons. When Jose died in 1979, Nicolas and Andre began playing with the Baliardos.

Los Reyes means 'The Kings' and the band became The Gipsy Kings, creating a musical style 'Rumba Flamenca' combining traditional flamenco with pop, Latin and jazz.

Grammy award winners The Gipsy Kings are coming to Wolverhampton

WEST End star and TV presenter Denise Van Outen brings her new one-woman show to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this week.

Co-written by Terry Ronald with musical supervision by Kylie Minogue's musical collaborator, Steve Anderson, Some Girl I Used To Know is described as an uplifting look at modern womanhood set to songs of the 1980s and 90s.

It follows high-flying Stephanie Canworth on a musical journey down memory lane. She has it all — a successful career, supportive husband and is a media darling but a Facebook poke from an old flame bring memories flooding back.

Stage star Denise Van Outen

Strictly

Denise Van Outen's stage performances include Tell Me On A Sunday, Chicago, Rent: Remixed and Legally Blonde, and her television roles include Mary in Hotel Babylon, Michaela in The Empress' New Clothes, Leigh Jackson in Babes in the Wood and Kim Blakeney in Where the Heart Is. Last year she was runner-up in Strictly Come Dancing.

The play with music is staged for three nights at the Lichfield Street theatre from tonight to Saturday, plus a Saturday matinee. Tickets start at £14.50 and the box office can be contacted on 01902 429212.

There are more musical memories at the Grand on Sunday when David Alacey, Des Coleman and Paul Drakeley star as Frank, Sammy and Dean, bringing back the music of the kings of swing, the Rat Pack, by recreating a classic Las Vegas show featuring My Way, Mr Bojangles at That's Amore. Special guest is song and dance man Kenny Lynch.

Rod Stewart Musical Tonight's The Night, written by We Will Rock You's Ben Elton, is at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre Monday to Saturday featuring Sugababe Jade Ewen.

Jazz man with a famous name

HAVING one of the most famous actors on the planet for a father must be a challenge when you are trying to forge your own career but jazz composer and bass player Kyle Eastwood has managed to escape Clint's shadow.

Now in his 40s, and originally inspired by his father's jazz record collection, Kyle Eastwood has recorded six albums as a band leader and long ago left California to live in Paris. He and his band won acclaim for their latest album The View From Here, winning favourable comparisons with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers.

They will be in concert at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Saturday, April 26. Tickets cost £18 (£16 concessions). Call the box office on 01902 321321.

Zombies and Wytches alert

KEY gigs this week include singer-songwriters Newton Faulkner and Sam Brookes tonight at Birmingham 02 Academy. Black Country baggy rockers The Twang are at the Wulfrun on Saturday while Rizzle Kicks play the O2 Academy.

Beyonce brings her award-winning show to the LG Arena on Sunday. Rudimental are on stage at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Tuesday, the same day Spencer Davis returns with The Zombies, The Animals, The Yardbirds and Maggie Bell at Symphony Hall. Rising stars The Wytches play the Sunflower Lounge on Smallbrook Queensway on Thursday, February 27.

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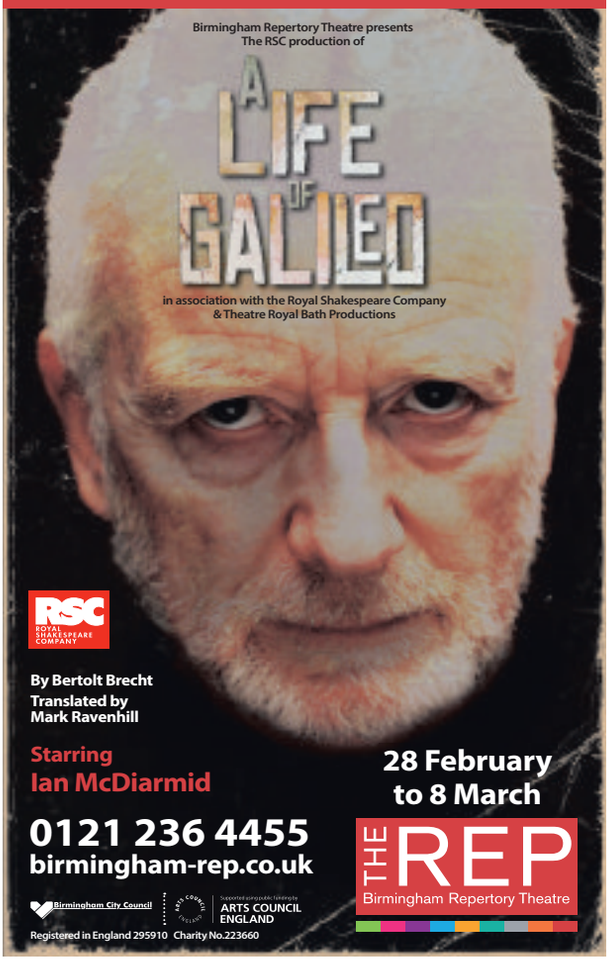

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 22.02.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Tom Jones

The Voice UK
BBC1, 7pm
While Will's team, including Anna McLuckie, Femi Santiago, James Byron, Jermain Jackman and Sophie-May Williams are all hoping they have the right stuff to go all the way to the final, even that is no guarantee of post-series success. Of course anything can happen during this latter stage of the blind auditions, and with new mentors – Kylie and Ricky Wilson – shaking things up in recent weeks, it looks like regulars Tom Jones and Will.i.am have their work cut out if they're going to keep their turns in the game and stand a chance of winning.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **3.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **5.55** BBC News; Weather.
6.15 Pointless Celebrities. A TV cooks special, with Rustie Lee, Antony Worrall Thompson, Theo Randall, Rachel Allen, Jean-Christophe Novelli, Paul Rankin, Aaron Craze and John Whaite. (R)
7.00 The Voice UK. The final round of blind auditions – the last chance for the remaining hopefuls to win a place on Kylie Minogue, Will.i.am, Tom Jones or Ricky Wilson's teams.
8.30 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers list what they know about given subjects. Including the National Lottery draws with Gaby Roslin. Last in the series.
9.20 Casualty. Fletch's daughter runs away from home and lands herself in danger, Robyn has to discover why a teenage girl is lying and a woman is brought in after tripping over a paving stone.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Everton at Stamford Bridge and Arsenal v Sunderland at the Emirates Stadium; National Lottery Update.
11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games.
1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

7.15 Film: The Magic Box. (1951) **9.00** Live Winter Olympics. Coverage on the 15th and penultimate day of the Games. **11.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.00** Flog It! Trade Secrets. (R) **12.30** Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the penultimate day of the Games in Russia. **4.00** Live Winter Olympics. The men's alpine skiing slalom. **4.50** Final Score. **5.05** Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the men's alpine skiing slalom. **5.35** Final Score.
6.00 Live Winter Olympics. The live coverage from Russia continues at the Sliding Centre Sanki in Krasnaya Polyana, with Clare Balding introducing the second run in the men's four-man bobsleigh competition. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
7.10 Winter Olympics: Today at the Games. Highlights from the 15th day of the Games in Russia.
8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May demonstrate their love of small cars with a trip to Ukraine. (R)
9.00 The Lost Portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie: A Culture Show Special. Bendor Grosvenor tries to track down a missing painting of Charles Edward Stuart by artist Allan Ramsay in the hope of unravelling one of the greatest mysteries in British art.
10.00 QI XL. With Katy Brand, Sue Perkins and David Mitchell.
10.45 Film: There Will Be Blood. (2007) Historical drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis.
1.15 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.30** ITV News. **11.40** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **1.05 Film:** Casino Royale. (1967) **3.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 The Cube: Celebrity Special. Boxer David Haye and I'm a Celebrity 2013 winner Kian Egan set out to complete a series of fiendishly difficult challenges and win thousands for charity. Phillip Schofield presents.
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. New series. The Geordie duo return with the entertainment show. Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford take part in I'm a Celebrity Get Out of Me Ear, and Michael Buble performs.
8.20 Take Me Out. Mr Wales 2013, a semi-pro wrestler, a champagne importer and a cleaner try to impress the panel and win a date to the Isle of Fernandos. Last in the series.
9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, musical performances by A-list bands and solo artists.
10.50 ITV News; Weather.
11.05 Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift. (2006)
1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.35 The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** How I Met Your Mother. **12.00** How I Met Your Mother. **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.15 Superstar Dogs: Countdown to Crufts. A German shepherd, a border collie and a Labrador-Staffie cross compete.
6.45 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke follows a couple's project to transform a derelict flint mill in Stone, Staffordshire, and uncovers the link between the building and the work of Josiah Wedgwood. (R)
8.00 Walking Through History: North Norfolk. Tony Robinson learns about Victorian Norfolk during a coastal journey. Last in the series.
9.00 Hostages. Ellen sneaks away to meet a family friend who may be able to help her.
9.55 Film: Transporter 3. (2008) Underworld courier Frank Martin transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked government minister across Europe. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham.
11.55 Film: Cop Land. (1997)
1.45 Boss. **2.45** One Minute Past Midnight. (R) **2.55** One Born Every Minute. (R) **3.55** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.15 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop. (2009) **12.00 Film:** Sabrina. (1995) Romantic comedy remake, with Harrison Ford and Julia Ormond. **2.25** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **3.25 Film:** Columbo: A Bird in the Hand. (1992) **5.20 Film:** Columbo: The Most Crucial Game. (1972)
6.40 5 News Weekend.
6.45 NCIS. A sailor's body is discovered in a disused restaurant, and his death is initially ascribed to an accidental drug overdose – but Abby discovers evidence suggesting he was murdered. (R)
7.30 NCIS. A nuclear power plant inspector suffers radiation poisoning, forcing the team to consider the possibility that a foreign power deliberately targeted him. (R)
8.30 The NCIS Movie: Legend. Feature-length episode. The agents travel to LA to work with another NCIS team on an investigation that escalates into a high-priority case, and Tony begins to pry into Ziva's life. (R)
10.10 Film: Nora Roberts' Midnight Bayou. (2009) Premiere. An attorney investigates the dark history of his mansion to discover the truth behind a haunting. Supernatural romantic drama, with Jerry O'Connell and Lauren Stamile.
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Benidorm ER. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth **7.15** Doctor Who **8.00** Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide **9.00 Film:** Little Fockers (2010) **10.30** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Wild China **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of South America **9.00** Salamander **10.40** Ultimate Number 1s at the BBC **11.40** Forever Young – How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up
ITV2
3.40 Brit Awards 2014 **5.55 Film:** The Perfect Man (2005) **8.00 Film:** Ocean's Eleven (2001) **10.20** Celebrity Juice: Saturday Night Takeaway Special **11.10 Film:** Hannibal (2001)
ITV3
3.50 Film: Clockwise (1986) **5.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Vera **11.00** A Touch of Frost
ITV4
2.10 Film: The Appaloosa (1966) **4.15** Storage Wars **5.20 Film:** Superman II (1980) **7.55** Hornblower. First of a two-part seafaring drama, starring Ioan Gruffudd. **10.00 Film:** Above the Law (1988)
F4
3.30 The Big Bang Theory **4.30** Rude(ish) Tube **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** Airplane! (1980) **10.50** Rude Tube **11.50** The Big Bang Theory
Film4
3.10 Carry On Up the Khyber (1968) **4.55** Coraline (2009) **6.55** The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) **9.00** Babylon AD (2008) **10.45** Carriers (2009)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 23.02.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Laura Main

Call the Midwife
BBC1, 8pm
Babies, medical emergencies, period costumes – no wonder this series continues to clean up in the ratings, it's got all the ingredients you could possibly want from a Sunday night drama. And for anyone who thinks it might benefit from a little more romance, you're in for a treat this week as Trixie catches the eye of the local curate, Tom. While we normally wouldn't have thought Nonnatus House's resident blonde bombshell would be the type to have her head turned by a clergyman, she's thrilled when he asks her to join him for a day of cricket.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** The Indian Doctor. (R) **2.55** Flog It! Trade Secrets. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Deadly 60 on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Blandings. Clarence and Connie's terrifying sister Charlotte arrives – and threatens to stay for good.

7.00 Countryfile. From the Isle of Portland off the Dorset coast, where Matt Baker explores its three lighthouses and Julia Bradbury visits the famous Portland Stone quarries. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Trixie is excited when a local curate invites her on a date. Shelagh has finally decided what she wants in life and Patsy works tirelessly to diagnose a docker's unusual symptoms.

9.00 The Musketeers. Porthos is sentenced to death for murder, then swiftly abducted by a gang from the slums, leaving the other Musketeers to infiltrate this dangerous district to find their friend.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Liverpool v Swansea City.

11.35 Film: The Devil's Double. (2011) Premiere. Fact-based drama, starring Dominic Cooper.

1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Bachelor Knight. (1947) **7.30** Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Live Winter Olympics. Coverage of the final day of the Games in Russia. **2.30** Live Winter Olympics. A look back at the 22nd staging of the Winter Olympics. **4.00** Live Winter Olympics Closing Ceremony. The 22nd Winter Olympics are officially brought to a close.

7.00 Hunt vs Lauda: F1's Greatest Racing Rivals. Documentary using archive footage and interviews with key players to chart the battle between Britain's James Hunt and Austria's Niki Lauda for the 1976 world drivers' championship. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson drives the hand-crafted Touring Superleggera Disco Volante and Richard Hammond experiences the Mercedes-Benz G63 AMG 6x6.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Aspiring entrepreneurs pitch ideas including a glow-in-the-dark sportswear brand, a uniquely shaped energy-saving device and a confidence-building children's toy.

10.00 Alan Davies Apres-Ski. The comedian and his guests give their take on the latest from Sochi. Last in the series. (R)

10.30 Line of Duty. Denton gathers compromising evidence to use against AC-12. (R)

11.30 Film: Of Time and the City. (2008) Documentary in which film-maker Terence Davies examines how his home city of Liverpool has changed.

12.45 Film: Silkwood. (1983) **2.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.45** Holby City. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Countrywise. **11.45** Inside the National Trust. **12.45 Film:** Evil Under the Sun. (1982) **3.00 Film:** On Her Majesty's Secret Service. (1969) **5.50** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Dancing on Ice. With only five stars left in the competition, the pressure increases tonight as they must all skate twice, including a routine without the support of their professional partners. The results are at 8.30pm.

7.45 All Star Family Fortunes. McFly bassist Dougie Poynter and 1980s pop star Sinitta team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity.

8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. A battle for the last place in the semi-final.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry organises a patriotic concert to raise money for the troops, and having offered to help the government, receives orders to leave London on a secret mission to Berlin.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 It'll Be Alright on the Night. TV bloopers. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.15 The Store. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Freesports on 4. **7.30** Arenacross. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** The Taste. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** How I Met Your Mother. **1.55** How I Met Your Mother. **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.35 Film:** The Devil Wears Prada. (2006) Comedy drama, starring Meryl Streep.

7.40 Channel 4 News.

8.00 The Edwardian Grand Designer: A Time Team Special. Tony Robinson goes behind the scenes of the National Trust's £11million restoration of Castle Drogo in Devon and finds out about the life and work of its architect Edwin Lutyens.

9.00 Film: Bridesmaids. (2011) Premiere. A disorganised woman takes charge of her best friend's bridal party, but finds she has a rival in the wife of the groom's boss. Comedy, with Kristen Wiig and Rose Byrne.

11.25 Film: Sex and the City. (2008) Journalist Carrie prepares for her wedding, but fiance Big is starting to get cold feet. Comedy, starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon.

1.55 Boss. Kane takes a break from City Hall. **2.55** One Born Every Minute. A father-to-be cannot be contacted as his girlfriend's labour progresses. (R) **3.55** Location, Location, Location. Revisiting two couples who were expecting babies. (R) **4.50** Supernanny US. (R) **5.30** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.00** Access. (R) **11.10** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.45** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.45** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.45** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) **2.45 Film:** The Kid. (2000) **4.45 Film:** Over Her Dead Body. (2008)

6.35 5 News.

6.40 Film: The Man in the Iron Mask. (1998) The Three Musketeers set out to depose the King of France and place his imprisoned twin brother on the throne. Swashbuckling adventure, with Leonardo DiCaprio and John Malkovich. Edited for violence and sexual content.

9.00 Film: Daybreakers. (2010) Thriller, starring Ethan Hawke.

10.55 Film: The Matrix Revolutions. (2003) Sci-fi sequel, starring Keanu Reeves.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.05** Ultimate Emergency Bikers. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.25** The Voice UK **9.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents: Thailand **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Uncle **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Francesco's Italy Top to Toe **8.00** The Review Show **9.00** Bunkers, Brutalism and Bloodymindedness: Concrete Poetry with Jonathan Meades **10.00 Film:** In a Better World (2010) **11.50** BB King – The Life of Riley

ITV2
3.50 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.15 Film:** Junior (1994) **7.30 Film:** Ocean's Thirteen (2007) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **11.00** Utterly Outrageous Reality TV Moments 2013

ITV3
2.55 Agatha Christie's Marple **4.55** Lewis **7.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Ronnie Corbett's Comedy Britain **10.00** Inspector Morse

ITV4
2.50 Film: Northwest Mounted Police (1940) **5.20 Film:** Nevada Smith (1966) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** The Keeper (2009) **11.00** Hell on Wheels **11.55** Nitro Circus

E4
3.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.00** The Tomorrow People **5.00** Troy **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** My Mad Fat Diary **11.30** Rules of Engagement

Film4
2.35 At the Earth's Core (1976) **4.20** Freaky Friday (1976) **6.15** Independence Day (1996) **9.00** Unknown (2011) **11.15** The Talented Mr Ripley (1999)

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What's On!

Film Choices

Monday
Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery, Channel 5, 11pm
A velvet-clad, sex-crazed secret agent from the 1960s agrees to be put into a state of suspended animation after his arch-enemy escapes justice. Thirty years later he is defrosted to do battle with the power-mad villain again,. Spoof spy adventure, with Mike Myers, Elizabeth Hurley, Mimi Rogers and Robert Wagner. (1997)

Wednesday
Beginners, Channel 4, 12.05am
A man starting a relationship looks back on the last years of his father's life, when he came out as gay at the age of 75. He recalls the old man's passionate new outlook on life, and ponders what the experience can teach him about his current romance. Comedy drama, starring Ewan McGregor and an Oscar-winning Christopher Plummer. (2010)

The Well, Channel 4, 1.50am
The son of a rich white man is suspected of being behind the disappearance of a five-year-old black girl, causing a near riot among the black community. When she is later found trapped in a well, the townspeople set aside their racial differences and unite to rescue her. Drama, starring Richard Rober, Henry Morgan, Barry Kelley and Christine Larson. (1951)

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

Thursday
Hunger Point, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two sisters struggle to come to terms with the legacy of their mother's obsession with dieting and physical perfection. As they try to beat the strict conditioning she instilled in them, they begin to rebuild their shattered family life. Drama, starring Barbara Hershey, Christina Hendricks, Susan May Pratt and John Getz. (2003)

Friday
Black Friday, Channel 5, 3.20pm
An expert in bank security systems is forced to commit a crime when her daughter is taken hostage. The girl's captors order her to break into a dead cop's safety-deposit box and retrieve a vital piece of incriminating evidence. Thriller, starring Amy Carlson, Judd Nelson, Thomas Ian Griffith and Darcy Rose Byrnes. (2007)

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, BBC2, 11.05pm
A rebellious convict gets himself sent to a psychiatric hospital, thinking it will be easier than prison. Finding himself surrounded by institutionalised patients, he encourages them to rebel against the tyrannical head nurse. Milos Forman's Oscar-winning drama based on Ken Kesey's novel, starring Jack Nicholson, Louise Fletcher, Brad Dourif, Christopher Lloyd, William Redfield, Will Sampson and Danny DeVito. (1975)

Pick of the Week

Courtroom drama is back on the defence

British TV viewers seem to love nothing more than a good crime drama. Programmes such as Broadchurch, Inspector George Gently and DCI Banks regularly do well in the ratings, but they tend to concentrate on what happens when the culprits are caught – we rarely see what happens to them after that.

Law & Order: UK manages to straddle both the investigation and the prosecution, but without the depth legal drama fans probably crave. Kavanagh QC did delve into that side of things, but few series since then have managed it – until **Silk, BBC1, 9pm** made its debut in 2011.

We're thrilled to see it back for a third series, and with its original stars, Maxine Peake and Rupert Penry-Jones, still on board. Both are in-demand (Peake has also turned to writing recently – her first play, Beryl: A Love Story on Two Wheels, will open at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds in June), so it wouldn't have been a major shock if they were too busy to participate in Peter Moffat's acclaimed drama.

Her character, Martha, is thrown into the thick of things as soon as the new series begins when she's asked to defend the son of the head of chambers who has been arrested for killing a police officer – and as the evidence stacks up against him, her job seems to get increasingly difficult.

Meanwhile, Billy struggles with a secret and a new practice manager sends ripples through the clerks' room.

Maxine has played both criminals and lawyers during her career, and is very clear about which is the more challenging role.

"It's much more interesting being in front of the court," she admits. "And I think performance-wise, it's harder pretending to defend someone than being the defendant."

Female QCs are few and far between – there have only ever been about 300, according to Bar Council statistics – but Maxine had help when it came to research from a formidable role model.

"I met with Helena Kennedy QC at a charity event at the Royal Courts of Justice, around the same time I knew I was going up for the part," reveals Maxine. "I remember thinking 'this woman is quite special and I'd like to find out more about this world.'

"It's scary and it's true that women don't get a fair crack at the whip, partly because as a women you have to make sacrifices, such as deciding whether to have a family, and being a QC takes over your life."

However, Martha is no dowdy, lifeless, career-driven soul.

"I wanted to make her a little bit glamorous, I feel she's got her own personality, she's a bit rock 'n' roll. She's definitely into her music. It's funny because my friends were like 'hang on, that's you,' because I love my music and red lipstick, which worked for the character too."

But has playing Martha given Maxine a taste for the legal profession?

"I find it fascinating but I don't think I'm quite cut out for it!" she laughs. "I think I'd get far too involved and that's what you see with Martha. I'd find it really difficult to switch off and I think you sort of have to, because people's lives are in your hands."

Neil Stuke, Miranda Raison and Frances Barber also star.

Rupert Penry-Jones and Maxine Peake star in Silk, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
The Gadget Show
Channel 5, 7pm
This year marks Jason Bradbury's 10th as host of The Gadget Show, a series that kicked off in June 2004 with Adrian Simpson, Jon Bentley, Bradbury and Suzi Perry examining camcorders, TVs, cars with heads-up displays and mobile phones. The first of the new run sees the return of Ortis Deley. He, Rachel Riley and Jason explain why the desktop PC has fallen out of favour. Ortis will also nip to Italy to test iCub, a robot that learns skills from social interaction. As instantly retro photos are still hugely popular, Jon and the Beatles' former photographer Paul Beriff will be following a Fab Four tribute band around Liverpool. Plus, online video stars Matt and Darren test portable gaming devices.

DCI Banks
ITV, 9pm
If Stephen Tompkinson played DCI Banks like his first major character, Drop the Dead Donkey's dodgy cameraman Damian Day, you could expect planted evidence and false testimonies left, right and centre. Fortunately, Banks is far more dedicated to the truth – and in the conclusion of this two-parter, he's having to go all-out to find it. He learns of a mysterious tape recording that appears to link Matt Barber's father Jack, who was the original investigating officer in the John Gaunt case, with the Crystal Kiss – and faces a race against time to retrieve it. Helen, meanwhile, thinks she has all she needs to push the former copper harder.

Tuesday
Death in Paradise
BBC1, 9pm
Tycoon Alexander Jackson, owner of Sebastien Island, has been shot dead at a family gathering. As there is only one property on the island, and access is limited to one jetty via boat, the suspects are Alexander's three kids, housekeeper Rosie, and PA Emily. They were all at the house at the time of the crime. However, with only one of the late man's sons able to provide an alibi, Humphrey Goodman (Kris Marshall) and his team hope they can crack the case before the killer strikes again. With a hurricane approaching, the crime-busters could be stranded until the storm passes.

Wednesday
Line of Duty
BBC2, 9pm
The art of any great drama in these days of multi-channel viewing is grabbing the audience by the scruff of the neck and not letting go until the closing titles. Which is one of the reasons this fast moving, hard-hitting cops-and-robbers saga has touched a chord with the masses. In the latest offering Lindsay is remanded in custody on a murder charge, and her first thought on hearing the verdict is wondering who will take care of Bella, her cat. When she becomes the victim of a violent attack, Lindsay confides in Kate that she had a previous relationship with an executive police officer – who may have wanted her framed.

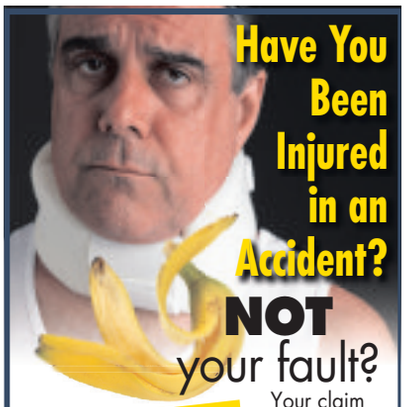
Suspects
Channel 5, 10pm
A woman has been attacked by the West Willow canal by a man wearing gloves and a balaclava. There is no CCTV footage, which naturally makes life difficult for crime busters DS Jack Weston (Damien Molony) and Charlie Steele (Clare-Hope Ashitey). The fact there have been two other rapes within a mile-and-a-half radius makes them suspect recently released serial rapist George Callahan. When pulled in for questioning, he claims to have been watching football at home, and both his home CCTV (installed since his release) and his girlfriend Annette (Annabelle Apsion) corroborates his alibi. Jack smells a rat, while DC Steele is stunned that the latest rape victim is the station's chief superintendent's wife.

Suspects, Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm

Thursday
Inspector George Gently
BBC1, 8.30pm
As well as letting us admire the 1960s fashions, Inspector George Gently also examines the social issues of the time, and this episode, the last in the current series, turns its attention to the decline of the coal industry. The once-thriving colliery town of Burnsend is facing an uncertain future amid reports that the National Coal Board is planning to close the mine – and the atmosphere is about to get even more tense after the body of miner Arthur Hawkes is discovered in the pit. Gently and Bacchus are called in to investigate, and discover that union man Hawkes had been in conflict with his 'comrades', as well as the management.

Friday
Jonathan Creek
BBC1, 9pm
Alan Davies recently tried out an unlikely new job – winter-sports reporter. He's been bringing us his own unique take on the action from Sochi in BBC Two's Apres-Ski. But now he's getting back to a more familiar role, that of master illusionist Jonathan Creek. The first episode seems tailor-made for him, as it involves a West End leading lady Juno Pirelli (Ali Bastian) who is found stabbed in a locked dressing room. But now he's happily married and working alongside his wife Polly (Sally Alexander), can Jonathan be persuaded to return to sleuthing?

Edge of Heaven
ITV, 9pm
He may have a Wham!-obsessed mother and live in Margate's only 1980s-themed bed and breakfast, but it seems unlikely Alfie will be in the mood to jive around the kitchen to Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go. If you missed last week's opening instalment of this promising comedy drama, it saw him being ditched at the altar by his bride Carly, who then went off on their honeymoon on her own – which she clearly enjoyed because she's now back with a new boyfriend..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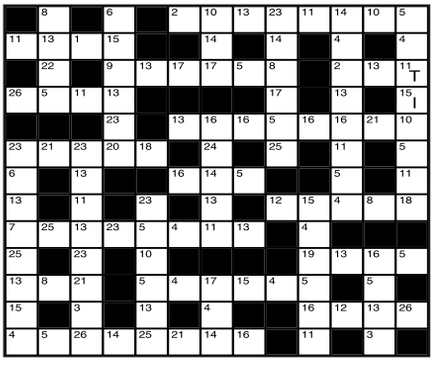
Puzzler

Brain Gym No.261

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

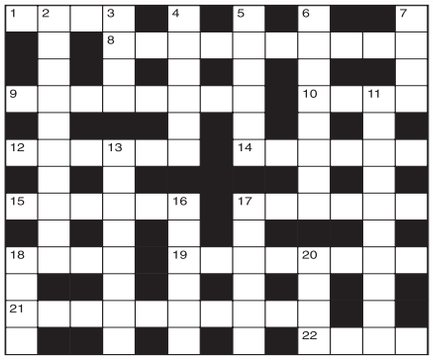


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	P	W	X	V	H	I	K	U	C	S	Q	N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	J	Y	A	L	B	Z	T	E	R	M	G	D

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Word associated with poker, but it's not flush! (4)
8. One is certain to be this (10)
9. Was present and listened (8)
10. Stops and objects (4)
12. It's not very often one gets a letter ahead of time! (6)
14. Picnic, perhaps (3,3)
15. His work's a grind (6)
17. Walk the street with a list (6)
18. Deserted port (4)
19. Give an undertaking to shrink? (8)
21. He's versatile, but liable to go to pieces (3,2,5)
22. Take the last drop (4)

Down

2. Order to the non-conformist on the track? (3,3,4)
3. Vague letter of little value (4)
4. Holiday when one is not at one's best (3,3)
5. Promise to put a shelf on quietly (6)
6. Film executive on board (8)
7. Service accommodation (4)
11. Unpopular second feature that's apt to grow on one (6,4)
13. One of the family may be oriental (8)
16. It has all the right ingredients (6)
17. Various indications it's not raining (6)
18. City where mail goes astray (4)
20. Charge for a plant (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Girl (4)
8. Victorious (10)
9. Finished (8)
10. Percolate (4)
12. Painter (6)
14. Show clearly (6)
15. Resting (6)
17. Threefold (6)
18. Wound-mark (4)
19. Cannibal (8)
21. Happy (10)
22. Above (4)

Down

2. Dictatorial (10)
3. Cease (4)
4. Strip (6)
5. Hinder (6)
6. Punish (8)
7. Pace (4)
11. Great merit (10)
13. Blend (8)
16. Perpetrate (6)
17. Ligament (6)
18. Sieve (4)
20. Too (4)

Sudoku

			5					7
	5	2		4		6	1	
1				9	3			5
2			3			8		
6	8			7			3	1
		1			8			6
3			1					9
	7	8		3		1		
5					6			8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	7	1	4	2	5	9	8	3
5	8	2	3	1	9	6	7	4
4	9	3	6	8	7	2	5	1
2	3	7	5	4	1	8	6	9
9	1	6	8	7	3	5	4	2
8	4	5	2	9	6	3	1	7
7	5	8	1	3	2	4	9	6
1	2	4	9	6	8	7	3	5
3	6	9	7	5	4	1	2	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Altar; 8 Rioters; 9 Tickets; 10 Fault; 12 First of all; 15 Incapacity; 18 Deter; 19 Neutron; 21 Galleon; 22 Angel. Down: 1 Master-mind; 2 Stick; 3 Free; 4 Wrists; 5 Confront; 6 Refusal; 11 Tolerantly; 13 Importer; 14 Scuttle; 16 Canine; 17 Drags; 20 Utah. QUICK - Across: 7 Earth; 8 Subject; 9 Observe; 10 Taper; 12 Stentorian; 15 Incendiary; 18 Naive; 19 Strikes; 21 Reviles; 22 False. Down: 1 Decoration; 2 Erase; 3 Char; 4 Astern; 5 Abattoir; 6 Despoil; 11 Ring-master; 13 Tenderly; 14 Achieve; 16 Insist; 17 Skill; 20 Rife.

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Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £149.95

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £199.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95

Dine and Dance from £149.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

Single room supplements apply. for all breaks

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Property

Three-storey residence is packed with appeal

THE Firs, 355 Hagley Rod, Stourbridge is a detached three-storey property in a sought after location. It is for sale through Andrew Grant at £479,950.

It has an entrance hall, living room, dining room, extended kitchen/diner, utility, walk-in pantry, ground-floor cloakroom, three first-floor bedrooms (master en-suite), bathroom, second floor bedroom with potential for a fifth bedroom/study, a double garage, driveway and rear gardens.

Contact Andrew Grant on 01384 370232 or visit www.andrew-grant.co.uk website.

K.Stuart Swash

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18th March 2014

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Select Property Management Ltd

Tel: 01384 277701 Fax: 01384 277720

BRIERLEY HILL

FOXDALE DRIVE
£460 pcm*
Modern Terrace House, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

THE PORTWAY
£385 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

WORDSLEY

CHAPEL STREET
£425 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing,Unfurnished

PENSNETT

AVON CLOSE
£585 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens

MILKING BANK

BLENHEIM WAY
£775 pcm*
Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Downstairs Cloakroom, Four Bedrooms, En Suite, House Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Garage

SEDGLEY

CROSS LANE
£625 pcm*
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

PENSNETT

CHELMAR DRIVE
£495 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

WILLENHALL

MILL LANE
£495 pcm*
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Large Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden, Parking

DUDLEY

LIMES ROAD
£510 pcm*
Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

BRIERLEY HILL

BROMPTON DRIVE
£575 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Good sized Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Parking to rear, Furnished or Unfurnished

DUDLEY

BOURNE STREET
£375 pcm*
Maisonette, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off road parking

WALL HEATH

HIGH STREET
£575 pcm*
Modern End Terrace, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

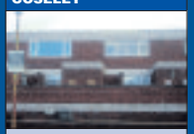
SEDGLEY

KINGS ROAD
£525 pcm*
Mid Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

PENSNETT

KIRKHAM GARDENS
£495 pcm*
Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

COSELEY



ROSEVILLE PRECINCT
£375 pcm*
Purpose built flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Bedroom, Refitted Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

HALESOWEN

CLIFTON ROAD
£575 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Garage, Unfurnished

STOURBRIDGE

AUDNAM
£375 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Ground Floor Entry, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

PENSNETT

HIGH STREET
£535 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Single Garage

NETHERTON

PARK ROAD
£350 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

QUEEN STREET
£475 pcm*
Large First Floor Flat. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Walk in Cupboard, Double Glazing, Part Furnished, Maintained Gardens. No DSS.

KINGSWINFORD

RANGEWAYS ROAD
£490 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Garden, Garage

BRIERLEY HILL

DADFORD VIEW
£410 pcm*
Cluster Style Property. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

WORDSLEY

INGATESTONE DRIVE
£510 pcm*
Purpose Built Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Garage, Communal Grounds

KINGSWINFORD

CAMBERLEY ROAD
£675 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished

(*Administration/application fees will apply)

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★★★★★

Brades Road Oldbury

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Guest WC
- Pleasant Rear garden
- EPC Rating E

£84,950

Heath Lane West Bromwich

- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended kitchen and diner
- Large Driveway
- EPC Rating E

£159,950

Farm Road Oldbury

- Modern Interior Throughout
- Newly fitted flooring
- Open Plan Lounge/Dinner and Kitchen
- EPC Rating E

£149,950

Dawes Avenue West Bromwich

- Three Bedroom
- Semi Detached
- Front and Rear Garden
- Spacious Living Area

£95,000

Wanderer Walk Castle Bromwich

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Furnished in the Asking Price
- EPC Rating D

£99,975

Queens Road Smethwick

- Three Bed Semi Detached
- Great Family Home
- Front and Rear Garden
- EPC Rating D

£89,500

Parkfield Road Oldbury

- Three Bed Semi Detached
- Spacious Family Lounge
- Compact Kitchen
- EPC Rating E

£134,950

Bridle Grove West Bromwich

- Detached Three Bed Property
- Converted Garage
- Conservatory & Downstairs WC
- EPC Rating D

£219,950

Harborne Road Bearwood

- Detached Five Bed Home
- Secured Gated Entrance
- Lovely Original Features
- EPC Rating E

£464,950

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Westmead Drive Oldbury

- Extended Five Bedroom Home
- Located In A Quiet Cul-De-Sac
- Spacious Living Areas
- EPC Rating D

£349,950

St Augustus Close West Bromwich

- Views of Sandwell Valley
- Large Driveway
- Four Bedroom Home
- EPC Rating D

£280,000

Beauchamp Avenue Handsworth

- Semi Detached Three Bed Extended Hom
- Spacious Living Area
- Downstairs Shower Room
- EPC Rating D

£189,950

Titford Road Oldbury

- Four Bedroom End Terrace
- Off Gated Road Parking
- Shower room
- EPC Rating E

£179,950

Goodrest Croft Yardley Wood

- Four Bedroom
- Converted Garage
- Potential Extention Available
- EPC Rating D

£179,950

Dudley Road East Tividale

- New Build Detached Four Bed
- Well Maintained Rear Garden
- Two Goodsized Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating C

£169,950

Hilltop West Bromwich

- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating F

£149,000

William Kerr Road Tipton

- Three Bedroom Detached Home
- Garage
- Leasehold
- EPC Rating C

£139,950

Queens Head Road Handsworth

- Convenience Store/Off Licence
- Living Accomadation
- Courtyard and Garage
- EPC Rating C

£119,950

Talbot Street Hockley

- Three Bed Semi Detached
- Modern Kitchen
- Perfect for First Time Buyers
- EPC Rating D

£114,950

Grafton Road Handsworth

- Three Bedroom Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Driveway
- EPC Rating C

£109,500

Rosefield Road Smethwick

- In Need of Modernisation
- New Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC Rating D

£99,950

Moat Road Oldbury

- Two bedroom Mid Terrace
- Off Road Parking
- Cul-de-sac location
- EPC Rating C

£97,950

Macdonald Close Tividale

- Semi-detached town house
- Three double bedrooms
- Three bathrooms
- Spacious lounge

£650 + Fees Apply●

Great Bridge Road Bilston

- Large Driveway
- NewModern Kitchen
- Two Spacious Reception Rooms
- Modern Bathroom

£525 + Fees Apply●

Ryle Street Walsall

- Semi-Detached
- Newly Modern Conservatory
- Large Rear Garden
- New Modern Kitchen

£550 + Fees Apply

Rotton Park Road Edgbaston

- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Interior
- Downstairs WC
- Extended Kitchen Area

£1,000 + Fees Apply

Birchwoods Bartley Green

- Beautiful Detached House
- Private Driveway
- Garage
- Situated in a Cul De Sac

£700 + Fees Apply●

Claremont Road Sedgley

- New refurbished throughout
- New fitted kitchen with gas cooker
- Garage with driveway
- Downstairs W.C and utility room

£600 + Fees Apply●

Heritage Way Tipton

- Three Bedroom Semi
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Furnished
- Spacious Rear Garden

£625 + Fees Apply●

Hintlesham Avenue Harborne

- Detached 4 Bed Residence
- Impressive Space
- Garage
- Four Bathrooms

£1,800 + Fees Apply●

Selwyn Road Edgbaston

- Three Bedroom Residence
- Impressive Space
- Garage and Driveway
- Fitted Kitchen

£900 + Fees Apply●

Woodbrooke Grove Northfield

- Modern Two Bed Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- Fitted Kitchen with Appliances

£700 + Fees Apply●

Middlepark Drive Northfield

- Modern One Bed Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Bathroom with Shower
- New Fitted Kitchen

£625 + Fees Apply●

Terrace Street Wednesbury

- Three Bed Semi Detached
- Extended Modern Kitchen
- Separate Bath and Shower
- Fabulous Front And Rear Garden

£650 + Fees Apply●

St Michaels Way Tipton

- Semi Detached Three Bedroom Property
- Driveway with Garage and front garden
- Three good-sized bedrooms
- Spacious landscaped garden

£575 + Fees Apply●

Addington Way Tividale

- Modern Build Three Bedroom House
- Modern Open Plan Kitchen
- Landscaped Enclosed Rear Garden
- Neutrally Decorated Throughout

£560 + Fees Apply●

Little Lane West Bromwich

- Three good sized bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Suited for Professionals only
- Parking via permit

£550 + Fees Apply●

Fircroft Bilston

- Two Bedroom Bungalow
- Quiet Cul De Sac Road
- Modern Kitchen
- Large Rear Garden

£525 + Fees Apply●

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Alexandra Road Handsworth

- Terraced Property Three Bedroom Home
- Fully Refurbished Throughout
- Fully Tiled Modern Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms

£495 + Fees Apply●

Brunswick Park Road

- Spacious bedroom
- Parking
- Brand new fitted kitchen
- Brand new bathroom

£475 + Fees Apply●

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Bilston
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Sedgley
01902 686868

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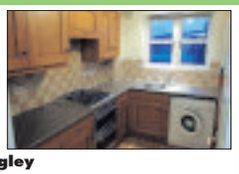
Bilston
Ashley Street
- Two bed mid terraced
- GCH and DG
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Utility room
- Luxury family bathroom
- Enclosed garden area
- Energy Rating - E

£525pcm



Sedgley
North One Mews
- Two bed first floor apartment
- GCH and DG
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Sparkling white family bathroom
- Landscape grounds
- Allocated car parking
- Energy Rating B

£525pcm

Willenhall
Gipsy Lane
- Two bed semi
- Fitted kitchen with separate utility room
- Spacious bathroom with shower
- Additional ground floor WC
- Low maintenance grounds
- Off road parking
- Energy Rating - D

£495pcm

Tipton
Ferguson Drive
- One bed first floor apartment
- Unfurnished
- Fully fitted kitchen with integrated oven and hob
- Storage heated
- Bathroom with bath and shower facilities
- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - TBC

£375pcm

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Bilston
Ettingshall Road
- Traditional three bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Luxury shower room
- Detached garage facility
- Landscaped gardens
- Pets and smokers considered
- Energy Rating - D
- Available immediately

£595pcm

Willenhall
Lakeside Close
- Three bed semi
- GCH and DG windows
- Bathroom with shower
- Dining Kitchen
- Garage
- Energy Rating - D
- Available February
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£575pcm

Tipton
Anita Avenue
- Two bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Private Gardens
- Driveway parking
- Energy Rating - C
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£550pcm

Wednesbury
Crankhall Lane
- Three bed semi
- GCH and DG
- Breakfast kitchen
- Cloakroom with WC
- Veranda/sun room
- Bathroom with shower
- ORP
- Energy Rating - C

£550pcm

Walsall
Warren Place
- Traditional three bed town house style property
- Double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Luxury bathroom with shower
- Pleasant front and rear gardens
- Bloxwich office
- Energy Rating - D

£550pcm

Willenhall
Walsall Road
- Modern three bed townhouse
- Fitted kitchen
- Guest W/C
- Family bathroom
- Ensuite shower room
- DG & GCH
- Energy Rating - C
- Available immediately

£525pcm

Brierley Hill
Columbus Avenue
- Two bed apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- ORP
- Located opposite Westfield Shopping Centre
- Energy Rating - C
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£525pcm

Bilston
Horace Street
- Two bed mid terraced home
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Fully fitted kitchen
- CH & DG
- Rear Garden
- Energy Rating - C
- Available immediately
- Call 01902 686868

£495pcm

Walsall
Wrexham Avenue
- Three bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Newly fitted carpets
- Kitchen with appliances
- Landscaped gardens
- Bathroom with shower
- Available immediately
- Energy Rating - D

£495pcm

Tipton
Potters Brook
- First floor purpose built apartment
- Two bedrooms
- DG and GCH
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Fitted kitchen
- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - B
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£475pcm

Tipton
Middle Meadow
- Two bed second floor apartment
- GCH & DG
- Lounge with juliet balcony
- Fitted kitchen incl oven and hob
- Bathroom with shower
- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - C
- Great Bridge

£450pcm

Brierley Hill
Commonside
- Two bed detached home
- Central heated accommodation
- Bathroom with shower
- Garden
- Available immediately
- Energy Rating - F
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£450pcm

Willenhall
Victoria Street
- Three bed mid terraced home
- Two reception rooms
- Newly refitted kitchen
- DG and CH
- Rear garden
- Energy Rating - D
- Willenhall Office
- Available immediately

£425pcm

Coseley
Redwood Road
- One bed ground floor flat
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen with integrated electric oven and hob
- Bathroom with white suite
- UPVC double glazed
- Allocated parking space and communal gardens

£375pcm

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49 Kenelm Road, Coseley, Bilston
3 Bed Semi
Guide: £64,000- £68,000

Unit 3-8 Premier Partnership Estate, Brierley Hill
Investment Property
Guide: £75,000

Castle Court, 5-7 The Broadway, Dudley
Modern B1 Offices
Guide: £125,000- £135,000

AUCTION

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SEDGLEY

Gospel End Road
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* An excellent size DETACHED home
* Sought after Gospel End address
* Walking distance to Sedgley village
* Open plan and recently fitted kitchen
* Utility room, play room/sitting room
* FOUR bedrooms, two en-suites
* Driveway parking for several cars
* Part garage and private rear garden.
* This is an ideal family home
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £269,950

COSELEY

Summerhill Road
* A DETACHED bungalow
* Enhanced and upgraded throughout
* Breakfast Kitchen * Large Conservatory
* Lounge & Dining Room
* One bedrooms (can be converted back into a two bedroom)
* Delightful & Landscaped gardens
* Secure parking through electronic gates
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £225,950

COSELEY

Bradleys Lane
* An excellent size detached family home
* Full of character and charm
* Modern kitchen * Dining Room
* Conservatory
* Three bedrooms and bathroom
* Good size rear garden
* Upvc double glazed windows
* Garage
* EPC Rating - tbc

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £209,950

DUDLEY

Attingham Drive
* A Modern TOWN HOUSE
* Set over three storey's
* Contemporary & spacious
* Lounge & dining Kitchen
* FOUR double bedrooms
* Two En-suites & family bathroom
* Allocated parking for 2/3 cars
* Rear garden set over 2 tiers
* EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £169,950

COSELEY

Pear Tree Lane
* A Traditional semi-detached property
* No UPWARD chain
* Having been upgraded and enhanced
* High standard & modern accommodation
* Lounge & Dining Kitchen
* Three good size bedrooms
* Good size rear garden
* Driveway with parking for 2 cars
* VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £165,000

COSELEY

Whitegates Road
* Exceptional FOUR bed semi
* Impressive, spacious accommodation.
*Though lounge/dining room
* Modern kitchen
* Beautifully fitted bathroom
* Rear garden
* Garage * Driveway
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £152,500

CRADLEY HEATH

Trejon Road
* A traditional bay fronted semi-detached
* Lounge & dining kitchen
* Three bedrooms
* Excellent size rear garden
* Upvc double glazed
* Gas centrally heated
* Off road parking
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £149,950

SEDGLEY

Clifton Street
* A PERIOD three storey semi-detached
* Fully modernised and enhanced
* Lounge and conservatory
* Dining kitchen
* Three double bedrooms
* Double glazed 'Sash' windows
* A large & well maintained rear garden
* Views over Coseley allotments.
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £149,950

COSELEY

Rosalind Avenue
A traditional style semi-detached
On the popular Bramford Estate
Lounge & Dining Room
Modern breakfast Kitchen
Three bedrooms
Garage and drive
Rear garden
NO UPWARD CHAIN
EPC Rating - D

PRICE £139,950

WOODSETTON

Patricia Crescent
* A traditional semi-detached
* Situated on a sought after estate
* Lounge & Dining Room
* Kitchen & downstairs wc
* Three good size bedrooms
* Beautiful rear garden
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £119,500

COSELEY

Southall Crescent
* A traditional style semi-detached
* Walking distance to Coseley train station
* Extended and enhanced
* Dining kitchen
* Two bedrooms & shower room
* Good size rear garden
* Large driveway for parking
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,950

COSELEY

Eliot Croft
* A Modern semi-detached property
* Quiet cul-de-sac location
* Large corner plot
* Lounge & Dining kitchen
* Two bedrooms
* Upvc double glazed
* Good size rear garden
* Off road parking for up to 3 cars
* EPC Rating - D

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GORNAL WOOD

HIMLEY ROAD

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED BAY FRONTED DETACHED PROPERTY! A double glazed,gas centrally heated detached property comprising to the ground floor entrance hall, cloakroom, dining room, lounge has open plan access into the fitted kitchen having integrated gas hob with extractor hood above, built in oven,conservatory, landing, four bedrooms, en-suite to the master and a family bathroom/wc. Externally there is a driveway to the front leading to the garage and rear garden. EPC RATING AWAITED

£265,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

KINGSWINFORD

WATER STREET

EXTENDED!!!!!! A gas centrally heated & double glazed extended semi detached property located in desirable area & comprises entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen having integrated appliances, utility room, ground floor cloakroom, garage, landing, three bedrooms & family bathroom. Externally having enclosed rear garden & driveway. EPC Rating - D

£205,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

DARBYS HILL ROAD

MUST BE VIEWED! A considerably improved two bedroom detached bungalow comprising entrance porch, lounge, inner hallway, refitted four peice bathroom, fitted kitchen/diner & conservatory. Externally driveway parking having gated entrance to garage & rear garden comprising lawn & patio. EPC Rating Awaited

£179,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

OAKHAM

OAKHAM AVENUE

BRAND NEW TO THE MARKET! A double glazed, gas centrally heated & improved three bedroom bay fronted semi detached located in the desirable Oakham area. Approached via driveway parking for many vehicles the property comprises entrance porch, entrance hallway, through lounge/dining room & extended fitted kitchen to the ground floor, landing, three bedrooms and four piece bathroom to the first floor. The rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with patio. Viewing recommended. EPC Rating

£164,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL

DEEPDALE LANE

well presented extended link semi-detached property having the benefit also of extra living areas comprising bathroom and open lounge with bedroom area accessed either via the hallway or by garden entrance. The main residence comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, sun room, utility room to the ground floor, whilst upstairs there are three bedrooms and shower room. Externally block paved driveway along with garden. The property benefits from gas central heating system and double

£139,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

BROOKES CLOSE

A MODERN THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HAVING GARAGE & NO CHAIN! A double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached located at the top of this modern cul-de-sac & is approached via driveway parking to garage & leads to the property comprises entrance hall, ground floor cloakroom, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, landing, three bedrooms & bathroom. To the rear the garden is paved with lawn beyond. EPC - C

£130,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL

PRICES ROAD

CHARMING, CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED & CONVENIENTLY LOCATED! A gas centrally heated & double glazed traditional style end terraced residence comprising lounge having feature fireplace, fitted kitchen having integrated hob & oven, dining room, first floor landing, shower room, two bedrooms. Other features include easy distance of Gornal Village/Local amenities.EPC Rating awaited.

£124,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL

ROFORD COURT

Improved gas centrally heated & double glazed mid townhouse comprising to the ground floor entrance porch, hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen/dining room, rear vestibule, ground floor cloakroom. To the first floor landing, three bedrooms and the refitted house shower room. Externally rear garden & garage en bloc. EPC Rating Awaited

£124,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL

PIMLICO COURT

Well presented and improved mid town house having a conservatory.This gas central heated and double glazed mid terrace property comprising to the groundfloor of entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen/dining room and conservatory. To the first floor the landing gives access to three bedrooms and a family bathroom/ wc. Externally block paved driveway and rear garden. Epc rating E

£120,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

PROSPECT RD

MODERN TWO BEDROOM PROPERTY, EARLY VIEWING RECOMMENDED! This gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached property comprises entrance hallway, fitted kitchen, ground floor cloakroom, lounge having french doors to the rear garden, landing, two double bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor. Other features include it's close proximity to the town centre & driveway parking & rear garden. EPC Rating awaited.

£114,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

BAKER STREET

●An Improved Mid Townhouse●Two Bedrooms●Entrance Porch●Conservatory●Lounge●Low Maintenance Rear Garden●Driveway Parking●Ideal First Time Buy

£113,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

ASTON ROAD

GOOD DECORATIVE ORDER THROUGHOUT & BLOCK PAVED DRIVE! A double glazed & gas centrally heated two bedroom property having been improved by the current owner & comprises entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen to the ground floor, landing, two bedrooms and bathroom to first floor. Externally the property comprises enclosed rear garden & driveway. EPC - D

£113,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

BECKENSALL CLOSE

RECENTLEY REDUCED! This modern end townhouse is worth an early viewing, having a cul-de-sac location this two bedroom dwelling comprises entrance vestibule, lounge, kitchen diner to the ground floor whilst there are two bedrooms, the principal bedroom having en-suite & house bathroom to the first floor. Externally he property is approached via drive whilst the garden lies to both side & rear. EPC-C

£112,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

NETHERTON

BAPTIST END ROAD

A bay fronted three bedroom semi detached property comprising to the groundfloor of entrance hallway, two reception rooms and kitchen. To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a bathroom. Externally there is a driveway providing off road parking to the front and lawned rear garden. EPC Rating Is Grade E

£94,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

PERRY CLOSE

A TWO BEDROOM IMPROVED MID TOWNHOUSE HAVING NO UPWARD CHAIN. A gas centrally heated & double glazed mid townhouse comprising vestibule, lounge, fitted kitchen, landing, two bedrooms and updated bathroom. Externally having a cul-de-sac location & enclosed rear garden. EPC - C

£84,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

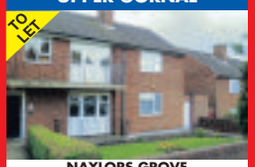
DUDLEY

GREEN PARK ROAD

●EPC Rating E●Semi Detached ●Two Double Bedrooms ●Lounge● Fitted Kitchen●Double Glazing ●Drive●Beautifully Presented

£475 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL



NAYLORS GROVE

●EPC Rating C●Ground Floor Maisonette●Two Bedrooms●Fitted Kitchen●Lounge●Bathroom●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Rear Garden

£475 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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TIPTON

ANCHOR DRIVE

●Modern Ground Floor Apartment ●Two Double Bedrooms ●Open Plan Lounge/Fitted Kitchen ●Allocated Parking ●Double Glazing

£495 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

ALEXANDRA WAY

●EPC Rating C ●One Bedroom Apartment ●Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen ●Bathroom ●Communal Parking

£390 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

CAMBRIDGE RD

3 bedroom semi-detached home & easy access to the Merry Hill Centre and Russells Hall Hospital the property consists of lounge, conservatory & kitchen, downstairs wc and to the first floor 3 bedrooms and family bathroom. Garden to rear.EPC Rating Awaited

£525 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

GRENVILLE ROAD

●EPC - D●Three Bedroom Semi●Located On The Popular Russells Hall Development●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Drive●Available Late Mar

£550 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

BONNEVILLE CLOSE

●EPC - B ●Modern Two Bedroom Apartment ●Lounge●Fitted Kitchen ●Bathroom●Double Glazing ●Allocated Parking

£495 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

OLD PORT CLOSE

●Modern Semi Detached●Two Bedrooms ●Lounge●Fitted Kitchen ●Drive●Garage ●EPC - D

£500 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

Swindon, Baldwin Way

BACKING ONTO FIELDS

Enjoying perhaps one of the best positions within sought after Baldwin Way, BACKING DIRECTLY ONTO COUNTRYSIDE/FIELDS, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED MODERN EXECUTIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME provides GENEROUS, BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED and RE-APPOINTED accommodation, comprising: Reception Hall, refitted Guests Cloakroom/WC, large Sitting Room, separate Dining Room through to large Garden Room/Second Sitting Room with French doors to 'decking'/balcony, large family Dining Kitchen with appliances, Four Bedroom layout (Bedrooms 3 & 4 currently combined – could be easily reverted back) luxury refitted En-Suite Shower Room and refitted House Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With an 'OPEN' FRONT OUTLOOK the frontage includes an attractive front garden, LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, DOUBLE GARAGE and to the rear enjoying the BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED GARDEN with large block paved terrace/patio elevated above beautiful open countryside/fields. EPC Rating – D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£384,950

WOODSETTON — Tamar Drive

A distinctive significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached family home, enviably situated upon popular development with open aspect. A personal inspection is considered imperative for full appreciation of this distinctive property which comprises Entrance Hall, Reception hall, Fitted Cloakroom, further store, 22ft through living/dining room with bay and patio doors through to a uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, extended/refitted 16ft 9" breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'contemporary style' units and various integrated appliances patio doors to outside. Principle 19ft 4" through bedroom possibilities of sub division to create en suite shower room?, 3 further bedrooms, bathroom, garage delightful landscape rear garden, blocked paved drive. EPC Rating T.B.C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £227,500

DUDLEY

Richborough Drive

A quite exceptional highly individual and tremendously enhanced FREEHOLD gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached enviably situated head of convenient cul-de-sac with PANARAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. Enhanced accommodation provides superb refitted kitchen with various integrated appliances and granite work surfaces, transverse lounge and CONSERVATORY beyond, former garage subdivided to create utility room and occasional fourth bedroom. To the first floor is a principle bedroom with STEAM ROOM en suite and two further bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, parking, landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £189,950

WOLVERHAMPTON — Penn Road

An EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS tremendously EXTENDED freehold gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached of character offering superb FAMILY SIZED accommodation. Glazed entrance porch, imposing reception hall, fitted cloak room, sitting room, extended 21ft 6" lounge with patio doors extended/refitted 17ft 5" breakfast kitchen. Three generous bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite and staircase up to large dormer bedroom four with many skylights. Off road parking, side store/workroom delightful sheltered rear garden EPC Rating D. VIEWING SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £210,000

COSELEY

Elmdale Road

Absolutely outstanding faultlessly appointed and exceptionally stylish ENLARGED gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years to an exemplary specification. Accommodation provides enlarged porch, reception hall, store, 22ft 9" through living/dining room with bay and double opening french doors to garden, refitted kitchen with fine range of 'maple' units and various integrated appliances further utility room (with matching 'maple effect' units), 3 bedrooms, reappointed with white contemporary style suite with 'whirlpool' bath substantial garage, block paved foregarden, sheltered landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £154,950

Wordsley

Barnett Lane

Superbly located just a short walk from local shops, within this extremely popular and much sought after address, this MODERN SEMI-DETACHED BUNGLOW offers SPACIOUS accommodation which, although REQUIRES SOME UPDATING, provides EXCELLENT POTENTIAL and, having already been enhanced by a CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, comprises: Reception Hall, splendid large Lounge, Conservatory, Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, RE-APPOINTED SHOWER ROOM; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond an attractive low maintenance fore garden, with LONG DRIVEWAY with approach to a CARPORT/GARAGE and, to the rear, enjoying a LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN which enjoys an OPEN REAR ASPECT. EPC Rating: TBA KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Offers in Excess of £150,000

SEDGLEY

Richmond Road

A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED an tremendously improved freehold, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached enviably situated within reasonable walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring and all associated amenities. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, rear sitting room(wood stripped floor) with patio doors, extended L shape breakfast kitchen refitted with a fine range of 'contemporary' style units, pantry, lobby, utility room, separate toilet. Three bedrooms re appointed bathroom with white traditionally styled suite (velux skylight installed to roof space providing significant further potential). Narrow garage, garden EPC Rating T.B.C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

NORTHWAY, SEDGLEY

Edge Hill Drive

NO UPWARD CHAIN an offering TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL a mostly uPVC double glazed (not tested) 3 bedroom semi detached enviably situated at head of well regarded cul-de-sac and with good distance views from the rear, requiring improvement/upgrading the accommodation comprises hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom there is a garage and gardens Fixed Price EPC Rating F. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Fixed Price of £124,950

PENSNETT

Church Street

This traditional style, gas centrally heated, TWO BEDROOM TERRACED property is situated in a popular residential location, and may particularly appeal to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Guest WC, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, Bathroom and a lengthy REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£84,950

LOWER GORNAL

Deepdale Lane

An imaginatively extended, highly individual, and comparatively spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow with PANORAMIC DISTANT views from the rear set in favoured district. The property has been "transformed" by present vendors over the years, and provides reception hall, "snug"/sitting room, magnificent 21'3" x 16' through lounge with patio doors out to a BALCONY, refitted kitchen, dining room (former bedroom). Two bedrooms, re appointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite. There are steps down to a useful BASEMENT providing utility room, separate toilet & extensive storage. Large double garage, delightful gardens abutting on to school grounds. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £227,500

Wall Heath — Maidensbridge Road

A QUITE EXCEPTIONAL, INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE AND EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED DETACHED FAMILY BUNGALOW enjoying a most enviable location, now offering EXTENDED, INCREDIBLY GENEROUS and IMMACULATELY RE-APPOINTED accommodation comprising: Central Hallway, very large extended Lounge, MAGNIFICENT LUXURY RE-APPOINTED KITCHEN with range of appliances plus DINING AREA (opening to lounge) off, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS (arranged upon two floors), beautiful luxury re-appointed ground floor Bathroom, luxury first floor Shower Room; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With FULL WIDTH TARMAC DRIVEWAY to the fore and a LEVEL ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£284,950 - NO UPWARD CHAIN

MILKING BANK AREA — Berkswell Close

A quite exceptional, lavishly appointed & comprehensively upgraded, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family home in short cul de sac just off Charlecote Drive. EXTREMELY SPACIOUS accommodation provides imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom, elegant 17ft. lounge (with bay & 'limestone' overmantel & granite hearth), separate dining room with bow window, refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'Old English Cream' effect units & many integrated appliances, refitted utility room. Magnificent principal bedroom suite with many built-in units, a walk through 'dressing room section' with reappointed bathroom beyond. Three further bedrooms (second bedroom with shower room en suite & fitted wardrobes), reappointed bathroom, garage, alarm systems, delightful expertly tended/secluded rear garden. EPC rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £264,950

DUDLEY

Richborough Drive

Enviably situated, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached with open aspect & distant views upon favoured development. Superb accommodation includes; reception hall, store, fitted upgraded cloakroom, breakfast kitchen, transverse lounge, magnificent brick/uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY. Three bedrooms (principal bedroom with reappointed shower room en suite), upgraded bathroom with white suite. Secure gated drive & substantial brick garage, secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £187,950

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6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

BROCKMOOR

Leys Road

This substantially extended, conscientiously maintained, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED family home provides versatile living space which simply must be viewed to appreciate the size / standard of accommodation provided. The truly versatile property briefly comprises: spacious Lounge, Sitting / Dining Room, re-fitted Breakfast Kitchen with a fine range of units, splendid Conservatory addition, Guest WC, THREE GOOD FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Shower Room with white suite, lovely SECOND FLOOR MASTER BEDROOM with En-suite, Driveway and neat REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£174,950

SEDGLEY

Brownswall Road

An absolutely outstanding, exceptionally well presented, freehold, gas centrally hearted (combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed, Three Bedroom Semi-Detached with large (24'5") garage and delightful garden, set on favoured Brownswall development. In the agent's opinion the property has been 'transformed' by the present vendors since initial purchase in 2012, with re-appointed bathroom, refitted kitchen, installation of uPVC double glazed casements and other PVC detailing a fine standard of decor and the garage roof has been renewed. The attractive external elevations are of brick and uPVC and tile hanging relief to bay surmounted by a pitched tiled roof, set well back from the road behind a lengthy lawned/walled fore garden with slabbed driveway. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £169,950

QUARRY BANK

Edwinstowe Close

This MODERN STYLE, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, FOUR BEDROOM detached family home is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, guest w.c, four bedrooms (with en-suite to master), bathroom with a white suite, allocated parking, and rear garden. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£165,000

PENSNETT — Corbyns Close

Representing a rare opportunity to acquire a property in a quiet Cul-de-Sac, this Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM DETACHED family home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and is well worthy of internal inspection. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Re-Fitted Bathroom with white suite. Garage, Driveway and a lengthy Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£164,950

Brierley Hill

Seagers Lane

Presenting a rare opportunity, this double glazed (most units uPVC), gas centrally heated, THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED family home is situated in a well regarded location overlooking "the park" and is convenient for local amenities. The well maintained property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, through Lounge / Dining Room, Kitchen, three good Bedrooms, refitted Shower Room with pale green suite, Garage, Driveway and tiered rear Garden. EPC rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£159,995

LOWER GORNAL

Ash Grove

Conveniently situated for the village (just off Central Drive), an exceptionally stylish, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached constructed circa 2008 having been tremendously improved by present vendor & presented in exemplary order throughout. Accommodation provides reception hall, fitted/half tiled cloakroom (with white suite), further store, well equipped kitchen with a fine range of 'beech' effect units & various integrated appliances, living/dining room, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom with white suite, extensive parking to front & landscaped secluded rear garden designed to ensure 'low maintenance'. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

DUDLEY

The Broadway

An EXTENDED, spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached occupying WIDER THAN AVERAGE PLOT in popular neighbourhood. Accommodation comprises; enlarged porch, reception hall, dining room, lounge, extended 18'2" kitchen, and the former garage has been sub-divided to create a utility room & fitted shower room (access through hall). Three generous bedrooms, bathroom. Extensive parking (11' width from former garage gable to boundary at side). EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

TIPTON

Wrens Avenue

An attractive, spacious, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached of character in favoured district. The accommodation provides; entrance porch, imposing reception hall (8'5" ceiling height), sitting room with bay, separate dining room, kitchen, pantry. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, good sized garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

LOWER GORNAL

The Straits

OFFERS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL & occupying a fine corner plot in popular/convenient neighbourhood, a gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement. Accommodation provides reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, store, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens & BRICK GARAGE to side. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £139,950

DUDLEY

Dibdale Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A quite exceptional, freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed semi detached bungalow that has been comprehensively renovated by present vendors in recent months occupying an impressive corner plot in established/convenient district. Accommodation includes reception hall, two bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite, lounge (with patio doors), boiler cupboard, enlarged/refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances; well tended gardens & GARAGE with tarmac driveway approach. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £139,950

PENSNETT

High Street

This traditional style, considerably enlarged uPVC Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, FOUR BEDROOM Semi Detached home provides versatile living space, and simply must be viewed to appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge with Bay, Dining Room, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Study, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Re-Fitted Shower Room, Attic Bedroom Four, Double Width Driveway, Lengthy Garden, and Double Garage (in need of some repair) to rear. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£134,950

COSELEY/SEDGLEY BORDER

High View

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed end starter home in relatively quiet cul-de-sac with wider than average plot. Accommodation includes; entrance hall, store, transverse lounge, breakfast kitchen with patio doors through to a uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY. Reappointed bathroom with a contemporary white suite, and THREE BEDROOMS. Block paved parking to front, secluded rear garden. EPC rating: c SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £126,950

LOWER GORNAL

Deepdale Lane

Deceptively spacious, ENLARGED, three bedroom semi detached with BASEMENT FLAT that has been 'transformed' in recent years and the gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed accommodation comprises: Ground floor - entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room & enlarged/updated kitchen with 'conservatory section', large store/utility room (former garage). First floor - three bedrooms & a reappointed shower room (former bathroom). Staircase (approach from hall or the store room) down to a 'lower ground floor flat' comprising entrance section, bathroom, living/dining/bedroom areas with a kitchen section. Neat rear garden. good distant views. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £146,250 NOW FIXED PRICE £124950

LANESFIELD

Dresden Close

Conscientiously maintained IDEAL FAMILY HOME, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached in short cul de sac conveniently situated just off Hilton Road. The property may be of particular interest to first time buyers, and briefly comprises: Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room with patio doors through to the CONSERVATORY beyond, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking (kerb dropped) & secluded/sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

SEDGLEY

Beech Close

This traditional, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached is situated in a quiet cul de sac and may be of particular interest to first time buyers or young families alike. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen with fine range of units, three good bedrooms, shower, driveway & side/rear gardens. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

PENSNETT

Commonside

This MODERN STYLE, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED, GAS CENTRALLY HEATED, two bedroom terraced home offers well presented accommodation, and may be of particular interest to first time buyers. The property briefly comprises: lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, and rear garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£99,950

Pensnett

Bromley

AN ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED TERRACED HOUSE forming part of an established location and offering WELL PROPORTIONED accommodation which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO' and comprising: entrance hall, attractive lounge, spacious fitted dining kitchen, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, classic white bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond the DRIVEWAY to the fore and enjoying a level, low maintenance patio / lawned rear garden. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£99,950 - NO UPWARD CHAIN

UPPER GORNAL

Priors Mill

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, two bedroomed mid townhouse is available with no upward chain, and may be of particular interest to first time buyers. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, lawned Gardens and secure parking to rear. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £94,950

UPPER GORNAL

Pale Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Excellently situated within reasonable walking distance of so many amenities, a GROUND FLOOR flat that has been renovated to a fine specification as a personal inspection will confirm. There is an 'entry phone' security system and vendor advises works include certified rewire, some re-plastering, a fine standard of decor throughout together with gas central heating and uPVC double glazing. Accommodation includes reception hall, enlarged/refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units including oven, hob & filter, lounge, double bedroom, reappointed bathroom with white suite. Externally are two lockable storage areas, communal grounds. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £59,995

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BILSTON
Whitegates Road

New to the market a three bedroom detached house - call now for further information

£140,000

TIPTON
Edwards Fisher Drive

Corner plot location! Ample off road parking that could facilitate a caravan. Walking distance to Tipton train station. This property also benefits from a entrance hall, lounge, modern fitted kitchen/dining room, en-suite and family bathroom, rear garden. No upward chain!

£116,950

Dudley
London Heights

Priced to sell!!! This WELL PRESENTED three bedroom semi detached house really is a must view. Briefly comprising lounge, dining area, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden, garage and a driveway. Located close to Dudley town centre with great access to local schools and transport links

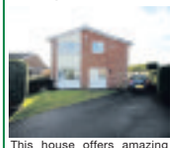
£109,950

Tividale
Charlotte Close

A modern mid terraced two bedroom house with hallway, kitchen, lounge, gardens to the front and rear and located on the m5/m6 corridor transport links.

£89,950

NETHERTON
Alpine Drive



This house offers amazing views to the rear over Netherton reservoir and is within walking distance to the shops and public transport links. With three double bedrooms a conservatory and a downstairs wc viewing is highly recommended

£199,950

BRIERLEY HILL
Elgar Crescent

Bigger than it looks! This beautifully presented three bedroom detached really is a must view! With a large lounge and a generous size kitchen/dining room with a archway through to a conservatory a separate utility room with a downstairs wc this house makes for a perfect family home. Outside there is a private rear garden, garage and a driveway.

£169,950

Dudley
Junction Street

One bedroom first floor flat located within walking distance of Dudley town centre. Has large lounge, bathroom, fitted Kitchen. Double bedroom. Double glazed. No upward chain!

£39,950

WEDNESBURY
Charlotte Road

Beautifully presented and having a lovely conservatory this three bedroom semi detached really is a must view! Having open plan kitchen/dining room with french style doors which open on to the conservatory. No upward chain.

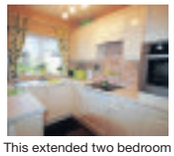
£114,950

DUDLEY
Buffery Road

This detached family home offers three bedrooms and has great access to motorway links, local schools, buffery park and local shops. Viewing is highly recoommended

£169,950

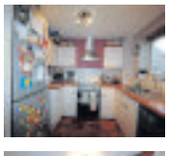
Netherton
Castleton Street



Off road parking to the rear!! This extended two bedroom semi detached house has lots of space to offer. Located in the heart of Netherton town centre with shops within walking distance along with public transport links and easy access to the motorway corridors. The property briefly comprises of lounge, dining room, cellar, dining kitchen with inter-grated cooker, washing machine, dishwasher and fridge, upstairs bathroom, two double bedrooms and a garden to the rear.

£89,950

TIVIDALE
Elizabeth Mews



Beautifully presented and realistically priced this two bedroom property with a garage really is a must view! Briefly comprising modern fitted kitchen, lounge/dining room, family bathroom and front and rear gardens.

£99,950

Sedgley
Sandyfields Road

This property must be viewed as it is rare to find a two bedroom first floor apartment in such a demanded area including a garage and a garden! There is no upward chain and it is walking distance to the shops and to Sedgley town centre

£114,950

DUDLEY
Scotts Green Close

This detached three bedroom house is within walking distance to Russells Hall hospital and has great schools close by along with easy access to motorway links. A great family home so call now to arrange your viewing

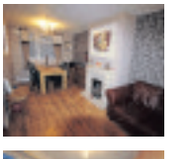
£149,950

Tividale
Raby Close

Located on the popular red lion estate this demanded three bedroom semi detached house offers a dining kitchen, driveway and rear garden. There are shops within walking distance and public transport links within easy reach. Viewing is highly recommended.

£122,000

STOURBRIDGE
Murcroft Road



Two bedroom semi detached house briefly comprising lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

£92,950

TIPTON
Evans Close

This extended semi detached two bedroom family home is within walking distance of Foxyards primary school and has shops and excellent public transport links close by along with easy access to the M5/M6 motorway network. The property must be viewed

£124,950

Dudley
Buffery Road

This detached bungalow really is a must view with two double bedrooms having a generous size kitchen and garden and being located close to the local park, good schools, shops and easy access to transport links. There is no upward chain.

£149,950

Netherton
Bell Road

Located in the heart of Netherton this three bedroom mid terraced house is a tardis. Shops and public transport links are all within walking distance along with locals schools. Call now to appreciate the accommodation on offer

£109,950

TIVIDALE
Elm Terrace

A two bedroom semi detached house which is immaculate throughout and briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs shower room, driveway and a good sized garden to the rear

£110,000 o/o

Drivetime

Your guide to the latest motoring news and views

Would you Adam and Eve this?

The ADAM is Vauxhall's refreshingly different take on the small car sector.

The model title's is a nod to Adam Opel, the founder of Vauxhall's European sister company, but is unlikely to start a trend for Biblical car names. It may though, start a trend for buyer personalisation, the like of which the market has never before seen. With over a million possible specification and trim combinations, the chances of two identical Vauxhall ADAMs ever being produced are statistically quite slim. Ground-breaking where it matters then - in the showroom. To disguise perhaps the fact that this car is actually quite conventional in arguably less important areas, running on the underpinnings of Vauxhall's old third generation Corsa.

The dealer network won't mind. It's the stylish look and feel that will sell this model. True enough, the Griffin brand has brought us some stylish designs in the past, but they've only appealed to a small percentage of the car buying population. Now at last, we've a Vauxhall with widespread chic appeal - a pretty new concept for British customers to grasp. Let's try it.

So what's it like behind the wheel? Slide into the seat and there's a very different feel from that provided by a Corsa.

As with all the powerplants launched with this car, it's a petrol unit, sixty two mph from rest occupying nearly 15s on the way to a top speed only just over 100mph. Better by far to find only a little more for one of the 1.4s, an 87PS unit that manages 62mph in a far more acceptable 12.5s on the way to 109mph. And a 100PS engine that improves things further to 11.5s and 115mph. Ask for something a little more hi-tech and the designers will point to the three cylinder 1.0-litre petrol unit also developed for this car.

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Fuel consumption figures for CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 31.7 (8.9), Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2), Combined 39.2 (7.2). CO_2 emissions: 168g/km; for Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO_2 emissions: 129g/km; for Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 53.3 (5.3). CO_2 emissions: 123g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Models Shown: CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,495 On The Road; Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £16,995 On The Road; Jazz 1.2 S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,495 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** *£269 per month example shown based on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,995 total cash price including 5 year care package at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £4,456.64 (19%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £8,854.53, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 6p per mile; New retail Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** *£209 per month example shown based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £17,495 total cash price including 5 Year Care Plan at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £3,812.69 (22%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £6,158.38, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile; New retail Jazz 1.2 S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. The advertised saving of £1,200 (including VAT) discount to the OTR price for the Jazz 1.2 S applied to the retail invoice. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** *£140 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.2 S in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,995. Total cash price including 5 Year Care Package (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £1,795.20 (16%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £4,159.72 annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. The 5 Year Care Package includes: **Servicing:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary Hondacare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,545 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2. Zafira 1.6i 16v VVT (Manual5), Manual 5-speed: Urban 32.5 (8.7), Extra-urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 42.2 (6.7). CO_2 emissions 157g/km.

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Chevy's new mini-MPV a great option for families

Okay, so the Chevrolet Orlando could only sound more like a US holiday rental if they dubbed it the Hertz or the Avis. But set that thought aside, approach the Orlando with an open mind and you'll appreciate that this is a significant and promising vehicle.

It's no great secret that until fairly recently Chevrolet was on its knees, and it would be understandable if the products it was bringing to market were cheaply developed and hastily conceived.

That doesn't appear to be the case with the Orlando. Yes, it rides on much the same General Motors Delta chassis as the Vauxhall Astra, but anyone who has driven the latest Astra will mark that as a positive.

As befits its role as a cost-effective people mover, the Orlando doesn't pack anything too exciting under its stubby bonnet.

There's a 139bhp 1.8-litre petrol engine which will attract heavy discounting and allow Chevrolet to post an eye-catching price tag in their ads, and then there are the engines that most UK buyers will want. These comprise a pair of diesels, both of two-litre capacity, producing either 139 or 161bhp.

The 1.8 petrol is a fairly inoffensive unit but it's worth remembering that it's got a lot of bulk to haul here and it lacks the torque to pull a typically-laden Orlando with any sparkle. The diesels are a far wiser choice and they're even acceptably refined.

The driving position is acceptable, with plenty of adjustment, although the chunky rear pillars and tapered side windows mean that rear three-quarter visibility isn't the best. If you're worried about this, best to specify the reverse parking sensors to help you navigate into tight parking spots.

At 4470mm long, the Orlando is a mere 3mm longer than a Vauxhall Zafira, and is exactly as long as a Citroen C4 Picasso, so it's fairly easy to get a handle on the size of vehicle you would be edging into a parking bay.

It is said that any mini-MPV stands or falls by the quality of its seating layout. To this end we've seen all manner of ingenuity, with seats springing from all sorts of orifices but there's only so much you can do with a given wheelbase and the Orlando copies the homework of the current cleverest in class, the Vauxhall Zafira.

While it's never going to win any prizes for originality, the Orlando's five seats plus two that pop out of the boot floor work very well. Yes, the rear seats look like something erected from an IKEA flat pack at first, but they're extremely sturdy. With an additional 85mm in the wheelbase compared to an Astra, there's plenty of legroom in the first two rows but the final pair of seats are, as usual, best left for smaller children. In all there are 30 seating combinations and a rear seat mirror will allow you to keep an eye on the kids.

Succeeded

Chevrolet says that in spite of the sweeping roof-line, the designers have succeeded in raising the second and third row of seats, which means Orlando's rear occupants get an even better view forwards. What this really means is that the fuel tank has to be packaged somewhere and, like most MPVs, it's safely positioned under the passenger seats.

There are storage compartments situated in the centre console, front and rear doors, rear luggage area and in the roof. There's even a stowage space concealed behind front fascia of the audio system, and its big enough to house your iPod or wallet. There's also a USB port in there. Maximum luggage space is impressive with the rear seats folded, but there's some intrusion from the rear wheel arches.

Somewhat strangely for a car called an Orlando and built in the US, this Chevy isn't sold in the States and is designed with a European audience in mind. It's built like a European rather than an American product too, with decent materials, tight shutlines and no significant acreage of elephant-grey plastic. As with all Chevrolet models, equipment levels are strong for the money.

The fascia design is reminiscent of the latest Ford models, with a bullhorn centre console in this case topped by an LCD display that houses a rear view camera in upper specification models. The layout of the minor controls will be familiar to Vauxhall Astra drivers and the only slightly jarring material choice is the automatic gearshift gate. Otherwise the dashboard is smartly finished and the multi-function steering wheel makes operating the stereo simplicity itself.

Customers will also be able to choose from four trim levels in the UK with standard equipment on all cars including electronic stability control, six air-bags, air conditioning and electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors.

Chevrolet has had a rather hit and miss record in its attempt to assimilate itself into the European market. That said, it's hard to see how the Orlando can possibly fail. Not only is it great value for money, but it also has a distinct personality of its own. Quality is better than you might expect and, as long as you choose a diesel engine, ongoing running costs are encouragingly modest. It goes without saying that it's a practical thing but the amount of care that has gone into making this car easy to live with on a day-to-day basis is obvious.

It's undeniably good looking, with its bluff front end, low-rider roofline and chamfered edges. Couple that with Chevrolet's strong warranty and plenty of safety kit and you have a package family buyers will warm to.

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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.6 LS: Urban 31.4, Extra-Urban 51.4, Combined 41.5, CO2 159 g/km; Spark 1.0 LS (mpg): Urban 42.8, Extra-Urban 67.3, Combined 55.4, CO2 119 g/km; Trax range: Urban: 34.4-52.3, Extra Urban: 51.3-70.6, Combined – 43.4-62.7. CO2 Emissions 120-153g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Pictures for illustration purposes only. Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze LS Hatchback and Estate, featuring metallic paint at an extra cost of £470 and Chevrolet Spark 1.0 LS and a Chevrolet Trax 1.6 LS which feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. *Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Saving based on a (trim and engine) Model Year 14 Spark and Model Year 14 Trax.. *Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings available on other Chevrolet models. Valid for retail registrations only. Offers available until 31st March 2014 while stocks last. 0% APR Representative, Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Santander Consumer (UK) plc, RH1 1SR or GMAC PO BOX 6666. Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Prices correct at time of print. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock.

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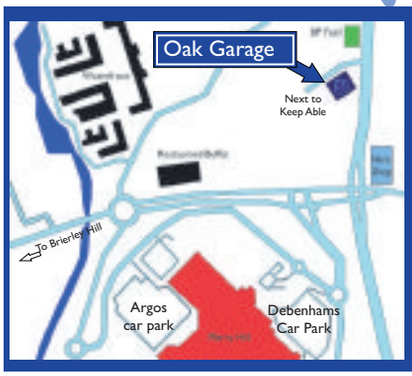

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At the 1974 Geneva Motor Show, a sleek new Volkswagen hatchback coupe made its debut.

Forty years and over a million sales later, the Volkswagen Scirocco is preparing to return to Geneva, with a new range of advanced engines that offer up to 280 PS yet also promise fuel efficiency improvements of up to 19 per cent, without compromising the Scirocco's dynamic performance.

Externally, the Scirocco's stylish shape has been refined and modernised with new headlights and tail lights, as well as revised bumper styling.

The revised front bumper features aerodynamic 'blades' in the outer section, like those of the latest-generation Golf GTI, with integrated indicator lights, daytime running lights and fog lights. On models fitted with the optional bi-xenon headlights, the daytime running lights are LEDs within the main headlights. At the rear, all Sciroccos now have LED tail lights, while the bumper has been reshaped to appear lower and more purposeful. As on a Golf, the Volkswagen logo badge now has an additional purpose: functioning as the tailgate release handle.

As before, the range-topping Scirocco R has a distinct look, with bespoke bumpers and alloy wheels. The Scirocco R now comes as standard with 18-inch 'Cadiz' alloy wheels, as on the Golf R. The rest of the range also receives new alloy wheel designs, including the option of the 'Talladega' alloy previously reserved for the 'R'.

Under the bonnet (which as before features the Volkswagen roundel) are six new tubocharged direct-injection petrol and diesel engines, all of which meet EU6 emissions standards and return between 68.9 and 34.9 mpg.

Inside, the dashboard has been updated, with new-look dials and an auxiliary instrument cluster above the centre console, consisting of chronometer, charge pressure and oil temperature gauges – a tribute to the 1974 model.

Orders open in the UK in May, with first deliveries in September. More details available closer to launch.

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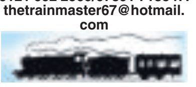

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4 Pets & Animals

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
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HW95 AIR RIFLE, silencer scope, leather sling and gun bag, £270. o.n.o. 07946 525534.

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pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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JACK RUSSELL Pure white male, 10 weeks old. £150. Both parents can be seen. Call 01922 447929.

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equestrian corner

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6 Property

properties wanted

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DSSMOVE.CO.UK the property website where properties say YES to DSS tenants.

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7 Jobs

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drivers

EXPERIENCED 7.5TON DRIVER required for multi drops in London. Must have digital tacho and CPC. Contact John Turton 01384 401491 john@jananmeat.co.uk

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nursing & carers

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part time - general

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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FORD FOCUS 1.6TDCi 55 plate, taxed/MoT, recently replaced clutch, flywheel and two tyres, 110k, fsh, good condition, reliable,

£2,575 ono.

07527 555399

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2006, 33,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, long MoT, central locking, one owner.

£2,150 ono.

07960 023755.

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£8,300 ono.

01922 724837.

PEUGEOT 206 1.1 ZEST, 2005, 53,000 miles, red, FSH, 12 months MoT, new cambelt and battery, many extras,

£1,750.

01902 632600 or 07973 667965.

PEUGEOT 407 1.6 HDI 54 reg, only 76,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, excellent condition, £1,850 ono. 07813 155447.

RANGE ROVER SPORT, 2005, black, 2.7SE Diesel, 68,000 miles, tax and MoT, £11,995 ono. 07703 454856.

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BV59 LBU, 21,200 miles, 8 months MoT.

£5,200 o.n.o.

01902 634085.

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1800cc petrol, 04 reg, gold, 74,500 miles, very good condition, MoT and tax June, SR, FSH, renewed head gasket, Catalyst, thrust bearing,

£2,495. ono. 01562 884859.

SEAT IBIZA

2007, 34,000 miles, charcoal grey, Sport 1.4. Excellent condition, lady owner, tax and MoT, electric windows, CD stereo, 3 door, 2 owners, fsh.

£3,200 ono.

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CHRYSLER NEON LX 2.0 auto, '03 52 reg. 58k miles VGC, SH, MoT 02/15. Cheap 4-dr automatic. P/ex ava £1,150 ono 07543481453 T.

CITROEN PICASSO XSARA SX, 2 litre diesel, red, 2002, tax June, MoT April, very good condition. £775. 07788 287476.

FORD FIESTA FINESSE, 2000, 49,000 miles, red, abs, air bag, air con, MoT, pas, sunroof, tax, £500 ono. 07949 517909.

FORD MONDEO TDCi, 2005. Excellent runner. Company car forces sale. Genuine callers only please. £1,250. ono. Bilston 07507 201335.

NISSAN ALMERA Tino S 1.8, 2003, petrol and gas, 119,500 miles, 12 months MoT, £950 ono. 01384 326379.

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2003, 64,000 miles, gold, abs, electric windows, fsh, long MoT.

£750 ono.

07593 277417.

PEUGEOT 206 SW Estate, 2003, 1400cc, petrol, long MoT, taxed, 71k miles, £795. 07950 396750.

RENAULT SCENIC 2003, 1.6, FSH, 73,000, cambelt replaced, new MoT, 2 remote keys. £1,250. Kidderminster 07971 561112.

TOYOTA YARIS 02, 1.0, tax and MoT, EW, PAS, cheap insurance and tax, £1,150 ono. 01902 833131 or 07754 557861.

MUST BE SEEN

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public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

sports clubs

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personal

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GENUINE MALE 52, down to earth, 5ft 10in, appreciates good food / conversation, seeks female, any aged or size. Single moms welcome. **Box Number P19067 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

LADY MID 60'S Young at heart, many interests. WLTM a tall, smart, honest, gentleman of a similar age for friendship. Photos would be nice (returned) **Please write to: Box Number P19071, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

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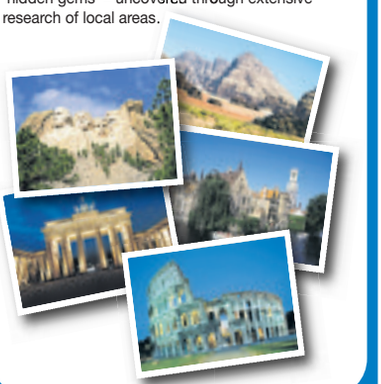

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On the Maple Leaf Trail travel first to Ottawa, Canada's capital and enjoy some free time before continuing to Montreal, Canada's second city. Here an optional guided tour and Maple delights and dinner excursion are offered.

Quebec city is also visited which is one of Canada's oldest settlements with its stunning Chateau Frontenac ancient ramparts and UNESCO-listed centre.

This trip is taken from Newmarket's America and Canada brochure which includes many other destinations.

Special discount offer applies for bookings made before February 28, 2014, see brochure for details.

INFO

- Return flights
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Two days departing April 26 and August 9

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- Visit to Oxford
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Hales get runner-up position in round two

Worcester Winter League Round 2

ON Saturday A & B teams from Halesowen travelled to Redditch and Bromsgrove for the second round of the Worcester Winter League.

The A team had a tough draw but after a strong opening 10 events found themselves leading the gala by six points. However, it was clear by the halfway mark that the contest was going to be close with three teams in contention for the lead. With 10 events to go the team had slipped into second spot but despite a strong final finish Halesowen A were made to settle for the runner-up spot.

The B team were up against other A teams in their gala.

Halesowen swimmers battled hard and finished in a solid third place.

Point scores from Gala 1 (at Redditch): Stourbridge A 191, Halesowen A 189, Redditch A 188, Stourbridge B 116, Oldbury 108

Point scores from Gala 2 (at Bromsgrove): Worcester A 197, Pershore 160, Halesowen B 150, Redditch B 140, Haden Hill 133

Far afield run brings in medal

WITH most local races falling victim to the weather it was a quiet weekend for DK Running Club with anyone looking to be competitive having to venture further afield.

Those looking to pick up medals couldn't have picked a better location than Eton Dorney near Windsor, the site of the 2012 Olympic rowing events. DK's Samantha Hemming claimed a medal, completing the Garmin sponsored Race Your Pace Half Marathon in a new personal best of 2.9.14 as she builds up to a crack at the London Marathon. Her time could have been quicker but strong winds throughout the four lap course almost blew her off her feet at times.

Jackie Burton headed to Barcelona to compete in their half marathon.

The warm weather and top quality field contributing to a finishing time of 2.20.03 for the 13.1 miles distance round the Catalan capital.

Old Hales are undone by penalties

Birmingham Medics 1sts 27
Old Halesonians 2nds 19

Rugby

ONCE again there was no first team game this week due to a waterlogged pitch. However, the seconds did manage to play.

Old Halesonians Seconds took to the field for the first time in several weeks to take on a Medics team who are unbeaten this season.

The home side dominated the early part of the game and they added a penalty and an unconverted try to take an 8-0 lead.

Penalties would eventually prove to be the downfall of a Halesowen team who managed to score more tries than their opponents.

Old Hales got back into the game and on occasions pressurised the Medics defence to keep them on their toes.

However, the home side made regular forays into the Old Hales 22 metre zone and were awarded several kickable penalties that their fullback slotted between the posts.

Three added penalty goals made the half time score 17-0 to the Medics.

Old Hales' half-time team talk seemed to do the trick as they came out for the second half with all guns blazing.

The Old Hales scrum regularly drove the opposition back and gave a good platform for powerful attacks.

Good interplay from the forwards gave Tom Dempsey the opportunity to crash through the Medics' defence to score close to the posts and his team mate Tom Harris duly added the conversion.

From the kick off Old Hales made their way down the field again and from another driving scrum the ball was quickly moved to the left to allow Andy Tromans to score from the left wing to make the score 17-12.

Unforced errors by Old Hales allowed the Medics more possession and once again they were awarded a penalty close to the posts which they slotted over to add to their tally.

With 10 minutes remaining Old Hales forced a lineout in the Medics 22.

A fine catch and drive by the forwards culminated in hooker, Sam Jones, scoring a try from the back of the maul for their efforts.

Tom Harris added the extras to make the score 20-19.

The last frantic minutes of the game saw both teams attacking moves ending in errors.

Finally, however, the Medics made the most of some clean ball and managed to score a converted try to make the final score 27-19.

Old Hales can reflect on a game where they outscored the opposition three tries to two but gave away too many penalties and this gave the Medics 15 simple points through penalty kicks that changed the outcome of the game.

Ben bangs in hat-trick to help Glassboys win

Arlesey Town 1 Stourbridge 5

BEN BILLINGHAM fired a first-half hat-trick as Stourbridge made full use of the conditions and took advantage of a jittery display from keeper Yannick Makiese on his home debut.

Football

The Glassboys came out convincing winners despite being a man short for the last 25 minutes following the sending-off of Louis Harris.

With 16 minutes gone the visitors grabbed the lead after a poor goal-kick off the floor by Makiese allowed Billingham to capitalise and having collected the ball, he ran forwards before tucking the ball away low past the French keeper.

Four minutes later Gary Hackett's men doubled their advantage after Billingham slipped a pass to Drew Canavan on the right and he drove towards the by-line before pulling the ball back towards Billingham who was upended by a mistimed tackle from Andre Maltay to win a penalty, which Sean Geddes duly converted for his 23rd goal of the season.

Arlesey responded and the Bedfordshire hosts pulled a goal back in the 24th minute.

A low right-wing centre by Jonny McNamara was cut out by Will Richards, however he dwelled too long on the ball and was tackled by Juan Mouko Nsue who having won possession was then able to beat Dean Coleman with a low angled shot into the far corner of the net. In deteriorating conditions, their joy proved short-lived as a mistake by Makiese gifted the Glassboys a goal a minute later. Geddes drifted in a free-kick that should have provided the keeper with a comfortable low gather, however he fumbled the ball to the feet of Richards and he turned the ball goalwards with Kayelden Brown applying the final touch.

Just after the half hour Billingham struck again, beating Makiese with a sweetly-struck angled 20-yard free-kick into the far bottom corner of the net and then on 35 minutes he completed his hat-trick when he whipped in an inswinging free-kick on the wind from close to the touchline on the right and he managed to catch out Makiese with the ball dropping underneath the crossbar and into the far top corner of the goal.

On 58 minutes Stourbridge threatened again and a flag-kick from Geddes fell to the feet of Leon Broadhurst, however his shot on target was blocked.

Ill wind blows some good for Harry's hole in one

Golf Academy Director and England Golf Coach Rob Bluck presents Harry with his certificate for hitting a hole in one

A YOUNG Dudley golfer has achieved every players dream of a hole in one at a course near Wolverhampton.

Ten-year-old golfer Harry Watton from Upper Gornal achieved the impressive feat at the 3 Hammers Golf Complex in Coven. The young golfer, who attends Roberts Primary School, Lower Gornal did it with the first shot from tee on Saturday during the strong winds which hit the region.

Harry regularly visits the Complex for golf lessons, to use driving range for practice and to play their 18 hole golf course. The youngster has been playing golf for 12 months and for the last six months has progressed to the Staffordshire County Academy Programme. The aspiring champion want to follow in the footsteps of his idols Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose. Harry's parents Dave and Natalie said: "We're very proud of him."

Enville get to ring in a victory over Bel

ENVILLE A (115-5) beat Belbroughton (64 all out) by 51 runs

Enville's openers Matt Branch (35) and Jono Howells (36no) laid a strong foundation for this victory.

On their retirements Enville lost two quick wickets and the run-rate was radically reduced.

Perry for Belbroughton with 2-11 from his three overs was largely responsible for this reverse.

After a short partnership between Tom Bingham and Ben Shorter was dissolved Matt Branch returned but unable to see much of the strike managed to get himself out.

Jono Howells then returned and saw Enville past the 100 mark to set Belboughton a reasonable target.

They were however, soon in trouble and were reduced to 36-3. The chase became impossible with Enville showing great focus and inspiration.

Oldswinford (109-5) beat Swindon (94-5) by 15 runs

In spite of the early loss of Lee Nightingale, Harry Stanier (27) and Dan Attwood (25) pulled the innings together well until their retirements.

Saxons on top after a shutout

Stourbridge Saxons 38
Leicester Lions 0

WITH Darlington Mowden Park's game at Sheffield lost to the weather Stourbridge now sit top of National League 2 North after Saturday's shut out of a determined Leicester Lions.

The Saxons now enjoy a well-deserved week's rest, returning to action on March 1st with a crunch fixture at Macclesfield.

First to score was flanker Nigel Mukarati at the base of a lineout catch and drive the visitors couldn't hold out.

The Saxons recovered kicked a scrum penalty back into the cornersfrom where Mike Hill crashed over out wide for his second try in successive weeks.

Nathan Bressington scored next.

Drew Harper grabbed the bonus point try and Bressington crossed for his second try.

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Perry is aiming for good season

FANS favourite Tom Perry celebrates his 21st birthday this weekend - and the Cradley man hopes to be celebrating success throughout 2014.

Perry is back with the Heathens, who will again race home meetings at Wolverhampton, after he spent last season on loan to the Isle of Wight.

And he said: "It's great to be back and I can't wait to get started with the Cradley boys.

"It's a milestone birthday for me this week and I hope I can celebrate throughout the season with plenty of success for Cradley.

"The bikes are coming along nicely, it's all part of the preparation for the new season and it's going to be a big season for me both on and off the track.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge because a few things went wrong for me last year and now is my chance to put it right."

Perry says the Heathens management have again got it right with their team selection.

He added: "At Cradley our team is looking pretty strong for the new season.

"There's a good mix of experienced riders who you know will score points, some young riders who could prove really good signings and a few guys on bargain averages. The side looks to have a pretty good balance."

Clarke wins latest round

STOURBRIDGE racer Steven Clarke showed the rest a clean pair of wheels as he won the latest Arenacross UK round in Newcastle.

The 23-year-old pipped Frenchman Cyrille Coulon in the main event after a frenetic night of racing at the city's Metro Radio Arena last Saturday.

Series leader Fabien Izoird came home third, with Clarke rising to fourth in the overall standings thanks to his win, ahead of the next round of the series in Sheffield this weekend.

Victory continued a rollercoaster year for Clarke, who won the first round in Belfast but failed to make the final in the previous round in Liverpool, even though he finished the race off the bike after being forced to jump off right at the finish. "That's got to be one of the hardest races of my career," said Clarke.

Hales hockey suffer their sixth loss this season

Stone 6 OHHC 1sts 1

OLD Halesonians Hockey Club lost for the sixth time this season, as they fell to an upcoming and much-improved Stone side, who have lost just once since the Christmas break.

The rain fell heavily prior to pushback, and there was a lot of surface water on the Stone pitch as the game began.

Stone dominated the early exchanges, as their game-plan was heavily effective against the visitors.

Hales struggled to contain the counter-attack of Stone, who were much stronger in all areas of the pitch.

Hockey

Stone opened the scoring, and they soon doubled their lead following a mistake from returning goalkeeper Steven Charlton.

Hales were dejected, but fought back to create a few chances of their own. They were unable to convert these chances into goals, and Stone soon hit with a counter attack which tore the Hales defence in two. Stone hit again before the break, and Hales faced a massive challenge in the second half as they found themselves 4-0 down.

Hales were much improved in the second half, but were far from their best. Hales had a few penalty corners which they were either blocked by the Stone defence who were solid all afternoon, or dashed wide of the goal.

Stone grabbed a 5th goal and put the game beyond the reach of the travelling and wet Hales players.

Stone continued to hit Hales hard, and scored once again to make it six, before Hales grabbed a consolation when Ben Hughes found space on the right, where his ball across the D was helped on by Paul Woodall, to Graham Knight at the back post who could not miss from close range.

Old Hales will look upon this week as a 'bad day at the office', and they must improve significantly to ensure they finish as high as possible in the league.

Despite the loss, Hales were able to hold onto their fourth placed spot, and they host South Nottingham, who are fighting for survival, next week, 1.30pm start at Ormiston Forge Academy.

Other Results:

Stourport 2 OHHC Ladies 1sts 1

OHHC 2nds 2 Old Silhillians 1

Stourport 5 OHHC 3rds 0

OHHC 4ths 3 Olton & West Warwick 2

SPIRIT OF DK IS STILL UNDAUNTED

Dudley Kingswinford 3 Macclesfield 26

IF spirit was the key ingredient on which a league's success was based, then this DK team would be top of the league.

This was one of their best performances of the season to date, where they held potential promotions candidates Macclesfield to a close 26-3 defeat, restricting high scoring visitors to just four tries.

This, despite playing for almost an hour with 14 men when young flanker Danny Hawkins was red-carded.

Playing with a strong wind at their backs, DK looked to attack at every opportunity, but were caught out when a good attacking move broke down and the visitors launched a counter attack, and No.8 Ryan Parkinson finished the move and crossed wide our for an unconverted try.

Driving

Further pressure from the Macclesfield pack shortly after led to the award of a penalty try as DK were penalised for bringing down a driving maul, and the referee did not hesitate to go between the posts. The try was converted by fly half Tom Eaton.

DK then launched their own attacks but were unable to breach a solid defence and their only award was a solitary penalty from fly half Gareth Bown. Shortly afterwards the sending off only served to galvanize the home side. And at some stages it was hard to realise which of the two teams was playing with 14 men.

Rugby

Just on half time, DK were struck a cruel blow when Macclesfield were awarded their third try through high-scoring wing Ed Stobart. The try was converted by Tom Eaton.

With the wind advantage in the favour of the visitors the signs for the home side were ominous but those odds did not faze DK and they opened the half strongly. One such attack saw fly half Bown make a good break only to be hauled down a few yards short of the lines. DK continued to press but couldn't find a way through.

The man advantage began to show as the visitors regrouped and launched attack after attack but the blue line across the pitch stood solid. There were short periods of respite for the home side but Macc continued to turn the screw. Eventually a stretched defence was breached and that man Stobart rounded the defence to bag his second with Eaton added the extras. To hold a team of Macclesfield's calibre to just four tries was a remarkable achievement and this side can mark this result as a moral victory.

Scrum half Connah Jones whips the ball away for DK who although they showed great spirit still lost

Yeltz in goalless contest

Goole 0 Halesowen 0

BOTH teams deserved a point after producing an entertaining game in difficult, windy weather.

There were chances, and Halesowen showed first when Elliot Turner found himself clear on 19 minutes but shot wide. Goole forced a series of free-kicks in the first half but both defences were on top in the wind.

Four minutes after half-time the visitor's top scorer, Ben Haseley, got clear but shot wide.

Turner brought out an excellent save from Goole goalkeeper Liam Flynn on 52 minutes as the home team's main threats again came from corners and free-kicks. A minute from time Halesowen thought they had won it when Asa Charlton sent in a free-kick and Flynn and Joe Hull jumped for it, the ball ending up in the net. But the referee ruled there had been a foul on the goalkeeper.

In injury time Goole could have nicked all three points but Halesowen goalkeeper Matt Sargeant turned a 30-yard shot from Matt Husbands wide.

Halesowen are now second in Evo-Stik Division One South.

Woffy wins the man of the year

WOLVERHAMPTON speedway ace Tai Woffinden left a host of motorcycling icons trailing as he blitzed to theMotorcycle News Man of the Year Award for 2013.

The 23-year-old was up against a galaxy of two-wheeled stars from the road racing world, but bagged twice the number of votes notched by any of the other 13 shortlisted riders.

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